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General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 80
Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 26 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Upon instruction from my Government and pursuant to the note verbale dated 23 April 2015 from this Permanent Mission addressed to the Secretary-General (A/69/884), I would like to bring the following to your attention:

On 25 May 2015, an air strike conducted by the coalition led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hit close to the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Sana'a, causing severe damage to the building and property of the Embassy. In the above-mentioned note verbale regarding a similar attack conducted on 20 April 2015, my delegation warned against targeting diplomatic premises and representatives in flagrant violation of international law and recalled the international responsibility of those in charge of such reckless acts of military operation against diplomatic premises.

I would like to warn that a repetition of similar air strikes close to my country's diplomatic representation in the future can have serious consequences, including for the safety and security of Iranian diplomats in Sana'a. I would also request the Security Council to address this issue in an urgent manner.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 80, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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United Nations A/69/916

General Assembly

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27 May 2015

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 12
2001-2010: Decade to Roll Back Malaria in Developing Countries, Particularly in Africa

Implementation of General Assembly resolution 68/308 on consolidating gains and accelerating efforts to control and eliminate malaria in developing countries, particularly in Africa, by 2015

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization, submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 68/308.

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Report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization

Summary

The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 68/308. It provides a review of progress in the implementation of that resolution, focusing on the adoption and scaling up of interventions recommended by the World Health Organization in malaria-endemic countries. It provides an assessment of progress towards the 2015 global malaria targets, including Millennium Development Goal 6, targets set through the African Union and the World Health Assembly and goals set through the Global Malaria Action Plan developed by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership. It elaborates on the challenges limiting the full achievement of the targets and provides recommendations to ensure that progress is accelerated in the coming years.

I. Introduction

1. While malaria is a preventable and treatable disease, it continues to have a devastating impact on people's health and livelihoods around the world. In 2013, some 3.3 billion people were at risk of the disease in 97 countries and territories, and an estimated 198 million malaria cases occurred (uncertainty range: 124 million-283 million). The disease killed 584,000 people (uncertainty range: 367,000-755,000), mostly children under 5 years of age in sub-Saharan Africa. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a multi-pronged strategy to reduce the malaria burden, including vector control interventions, preventive therapies, diagnostic testing, quality-assured treatment and strong malaria surveillance.

2. The present report highlights progress and challenges in the control and elimination of malaria in the context of General Assembly resolution 68/308. It draws on the WHO *World Malaria Report 2014* and on contributions received from the Roll Back Malaria Partnership secretariat, the African Leaders Malaria Alliance and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The analysis is based on the latest available comprehensive data (2013) received from malaria-endemic countries and organizations supporting global malaria efforts. Data from 2014 are currently being collected and reviewed by WHO. Those, together with projections for 2015, will be published in the *Millennium Development Goals Report 2015*.

3. Over the past 10 years, malaria has received worldwide recognition as a priority global health issue. Under the umbrella of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership, endemic countries, United Nations agencies, bilateral donors, public-private partnerships, scientific organizations, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector have been working together to scale up interventions recommended by WHO, harmonize activities and improve strategic planning, programme management and the availability of funding. A steep rise in international funding has enabled endemic countries to expand their malaria programmes. Since 2010, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has provided more than $3 billion for malaria interventions, while the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland have been the second and third largest bilateral funders.

4. The success of efforts to control and eliminate malaria is measured by an analysis of trends in the disease burden and intervention scale-up and a review of progress made towards a set of global goals and targets that have been designed through intergovernmental processes or set in the context of global initiatives. The four main sets of goals and targets are Millennium Development Goal 6, targets set through the African Union and the World Health Assembly and goals set through the Global Malaria Action Plan developed by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership. Further details are provided in section IV. Regional and subregional targets for malaria control and elimination are not addressed herein.

II. Current situation

5. Between 2000 and 2013, an expansion of malaria interventions helped to reduce malaria mortality rates by 47 per cent worldwide, averting an estimated 4.3 million deaths. The malaria mortality rate in the under-5 age group in Africa declined by 54 per cent during that period. Global case incidence was reduced by

30 per cent. A new analysis, published in 2014, reveals that the number of people who carried the malaria parasite in sub-Saharan Africa (i.e., both symptomatic and asymptomatic malaria infections) was reduced from an estimated 173 million in 2000 to 128 million in 2013, notwithstanding an increase of 43 per cent in population levels in malaria-endemic countries of Africa.

6. Overall, the world is on track to achieve the Millennium Development Goals target for malaria: between 2000 and 2013, the rise of malaria incidence was halted and reversed around the world. However, the disease remains concentrated in 16 countries where about 80 per cent of global malaria deaths occur. Africa bears the world's highest malaria burden, with two countries — the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Nigeria — accounting for about 39 per cent of malaria mortality worldwide. In South-East Asia, the second most affected part of the world, India has the highest malaria burden. Overall, progress in reducing the malaria burden has been swifter in countries that had lower rates of transmission in 2000.

Vector control measures

7. The scaling-up of insecticide-treated bednet distribution[1] and indoor residual spraying programmes has been a critical factor in bringing down disease transmission. Between 2004 and 2014, more than 900 million insecticide-treated bednets were delivered to countries in Africa, leading to a major increase in household ownership and bednet use. An estimated 49 per cent of the population at risk of malaria had access to a bednet in their household in 2013, compared with only 3 per cent in 2004. Meanwhile, the proportion of the at-risk population sleeping under an insecticide-treated bednet (representing the population directly protected) was 44 per cent in 2013.

8. That progress notwithstanding, only a few countries have managed to scale up access to insecticide-treated bednets to very high levels and major disparities remain between countries and across regions. The primary reason has been a shortage of financial resources to procure and distribute sufficient bednets to cover all affected communities. It is encouraging, however, that, in all countries surveyed, insecticide-treated bednet use was higher in the two most vulnerable groups — children under 5 years of age and pregnant women — than national averages.

9. In more than 60 countries, national malaria control programmes also include regular indoor spraying of homes to reduce the mosquito population that can carry the disease. In 2013, 124 million people were protected through that intervention. The proportion of the population protected by indoor spraying in Africa increased substantially during the period 2006-2008 and reached 11 per cent of the population at risk in 2010. By 2013, however, that proportion had fallen to 7 per cent owing to a contraction of spraying programmes in some countries as a result of the high cost of the insecticides that need to be used to prevent or manage mosquito resistance.

10. While current vector control tools remain effective, there is an urgent need to manage increasing mosquito resistance to insecticides in all endemic countries and to develop new formulations of insecticides and new tools. Since 2010, insecticide resistance has been reported by 53 countries, including most endemic countries in

[1] Although WHO recommends the use of long-lasting insecticidal nets, given the continued use of conventional insecticide-treated nets, especially outside Africa, the more generic term "insecticide-treated nets" is used throughout the present report.

Africa. In 2012, WHO and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership released the Global Plan for Insecticide Resistance Management in Malaria Vectors, which provides tailored guidance to countries, partners and the private sector. Most malaria-endemic countries are now undertaking insecticide resistance monitoring, but few have drawn up detailed plans to manage resistance.

Diagnostic testing and treatment

11. Artemisinin-based combination therapies are currently the most effective medicines for uncomplicated malaria caused by the *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite (the most lethal parasite, responsible for the large majority of malaria cases in Africa). Over the past eight years, the increasing availability of quality-assured combination therapies has helped to improve malaria treatment rates and reduce the number of severe cases and deaths. Between 2009 and 2013, the number of combination treatment courses distributed by national malaria programmes to public sector health facilities in Africa doubled (from 98 million to 181 million treatment courses), progressively replacing other, less-effective antimalarial treatments. In April 2015, WHO released a new edition of its malaria treatment guidelines, which included updated guidance on appropriate weight-based dosing of antimalarials.

12. WHO recommends diagnostic testing of all suspected malaria cases when patients seek treatment at health clinics, pharmacies or with community health workers. Rapid diagnostic tests are now widely available and more than 319 million were purchased in 2013, compared with 46 million in 2008. This has occurred in parallel with a gradual improvement in the quality of rapid diagnostic tests, as demonstrated by the WHO Malaria Rapid Diagnostic Test Product Testing Programme, managed jointly by WHO, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics and the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases.

13. The significant expansion of malaria diagnostic testing and treatment in recent years notwithstanding, millions of people continue to lack access to those services. Some 80 per cent of all children under 5 years of age with malaria (an estimated 56 million-69 million children) receive no artemisinin-based combination therapy at all. Similar coverage gaps have been seen in relation to preventive treatments, which are recommended for the most vulnerable groups in sub-Saharan Africa: pregnant women, children under 5 years of age and infants. Such treatments are highly cost-effective and have the potential to save tens of thousands of lives each year. The urgent need to fill those gaps was reinforced on World Malaria Day 2015, when Roll Back Malaria partners, including WHO and UNICEF, called upon the global health community to help to increase national coverage rates. The Roll Back Malaria Partnership also issued a global call to action to prevent the devastating outcomes associated with malaria during pregnancy.

14. Community-based health programmes can significantly reduce malaria-related child mortality in rural communities and the approach is being scaled up around the world. The Government of India, for example, has deployed more than 900,000 accredited social health activists nationwide in the past 10 years. They provide a basic package of curative care to all age groups, make timely referrals and promote immunization and other public health services. In Africa, WHO and UNICEF have helped countries to expand efforts to scale up integrated community case management programmes, through which community health workers are trained to

diagnose and treat children under 5 years of age for malaria, pneumonia and diarrhoea. Through a programme funded by the Government of Canada and supported by WHO and non-governmental organizations, more than 7,000 community health workers were trained and deployed in five African countries between 2012 and 2014, treating in excess of 650,000 children.

15. The Ebola virus disease outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone in 2014/15 severely compromised those countries' health systems. To manage and reduce the malaria burden, WHO issued guidance on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of malaria in Ebola-affected areas, including recommending the use of mass drug administration in Ebola hotspots to reduce the number of malaria cases. With support from UNICEF, the Global Fund and other partners, the Government of Sierra Leone carried out two rounds of mass drug administration, covering more than 2.6 million people between December 2014 and January 2015. The Government of Liberia reached more than 300,000 people with its mass drug administration campaign in the capital, Monrovia. WHO and partners are now helping affected countries to rehabilitate health-care services, scale up malaria interventions, address the shortages of diagnostic tests and drugs and strengthen malaria surveillance.

Increasing drug resistance

16. Over the past year, the extent of artemisinin resistance and multi-drug resistance (including resistance to artemisinin-based combination therapies) has significantly worsened in the Greater Mekong subregion of South-East Asia. Unless the issue is addressed urgently, drug-resistant malaria could become a major global public health threat, weakening the tools currently used to combat the disease. Following the launch of the emergency response to artemisinin resistance in the Greater Mekong subregion in 2013, WHO set up a biregional programme in Phnom Penh to coordinate the multi-stakeholder response. The hub works closely with ministries of health in Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as a range of development partners.

17. To tackle emerging multi-drug resistance, WHO has recommended an urgent scaling-up of malaria prevention measures throughout the subregion and a recalibration of efforts from resistance containment to regional malaria elimination by 2030. This follows the conclusion adopted by the WHO Malaria Policy Advisory Committee in September 2014 that the elimination of *Plasmodium falciparum* was feasible by 2030 and should be initiated as soon as possible. WHO is currently developing a subregional strategy that will help affected countries to reorient programmes to target malaria elimination. In developing the strategy, WHO has coordinated closely with countries and development partners and the draft document has been reviewed by the Committee.

18. The continued availability and use of oral artemisinin-based monotherapies poses a major risk to malaria control efforts globally and has contributed to the emergence of artemisinin resistance. WHO has long recommended the withdrawal of oral artemisinin-based monotherapies from the market and their replacement with combination therapies, as endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2007. According to the latest available information, however, those medicines continue to be marketed by at least 25 companies worldwide. Globally, 48 countries have withdrawn marketing authorization, but 8 continue to allow them to be marketed.

Malaria surveillance

19. While malaria case detection rates are gradually improving, only every seventh case is captured by surveillance systems globally. In 41 endemic countries, it is impossible to reliably assess malaria trends owing to incompleteness or inconsistency of reporting over time, or changes in diagnostic practice or health service utilization. There is a critical need to strengthen malaria surveillance systems to enable ministries of health to identify gaps in programme coverage and to respond to disease outbreaks effectively. Strong surveillance also helps to guide changes in programme planning and implementation so that resources can be directed to populations most in need and can help to assess the impact of interventions.

20. Strengthening surveillance systems is one of the three main pillars of the new WHO global technical strategy for malaria (2016-2030), which was endorsed by the World Health Assembly in May 2015. In the new strategy, countries are urged to substantially expand malaria surveillance and transform it into a core intervention as important as vector control, diagnostic testing or treatment. In addition to helping to accelerate progress towards the proposed targets, increased investment in malaria surveillance will ease the current reliance on model-based disease estimation methods and enable national decision makers and the global health community to build on more reliable health information and malaria data.

21. The strengthening of malaria surveillance has also been an important pillar of the WHO "T3: Test. Treat. Track" initiative, which was launched by the Director-General in April 2012 in Namibia. As part of the initiative, WHO encourages malaria-endemic countries and global malaria partners to scale up diagnostic testing, quality-assured treatment and surveillance to amplify the impact of prevention measures and further accelerate progress. The initiative was built on four core malaria guidance documents: the operational manuals entitled *Universal Access to Malaria Diagnostic Testing, Disease Surveillance for Malaria Control and Disease Surveillance for Malaria Elimination and the Guidelines for the Treatment of Malaria.*

Elimination and certification

22. In total, 26 endemic countries are close to eliminating malaria and their malaria programmes are currently in the pre-elimination, elimination or prevention of reintroduction phase. Many more countries have declared malaria elimination a national goal. In recent years, elimination efforts have been intensified in many parts of Africa, including the Southern African "Elimination 8" countries (Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe), in Central America and Hispaniola and in South-East Asia. In recent years, four countries have been certified by WHO as free of malaria: United Arab Emirates (2007), Morocco (2010), Turkmenistan (2010) and Armenia (2011). The certification process for Kyrgyzstan is continuing and WHO will soon begin the process for Argentina.

23. In many countries nearing elimination, malaria transmission occurs mostly in areas with limited transport and public health infrastructure, often near international borders. A high proportion of malaria cases are seen among migrant and mobile populations In those countries, progress towards elimination will require improved commodity delivery strategies and an expansion of access to health services for

affected groups. Strong regional and cross-border collaboration and improvements in diagnostic tools are also essential for sustaining progress.

New global guidance from the World Health Organization

24. In 2013, WHO began developing a new global malaria strategy to provide countries with evidence-based technical guidance for the period 2016-2030. The draft strategy was finalized in October 2014 and reviewed by the WHO Executive Board in January 2015. The document was developed in close consultation with endemic countries and partners and the process was overseen by the Malaria Policy Advisory Committee and a dedicated steering committee. The World Health Assembly adopted the document in May 2015 by its resolution WHA68.2.

25. The strategy sets the target of reducing the malaria disease burden by at least 40 per cent by 2020 and by at least 90 per cent by 2030. It also aims to eliminate the disease in at least 35 new countries by 2030. The document is built on the following three pillars: ensuring universal access to malaria prevention, diagnosis and treatment; accelerating efforts towards elimination and attainment of malaria-free status; and transforming malaria surveillance into a core intervention. The pillars are complemented by two supporting elements: harnessing innovation and expanding research; and strengthening the enabling environment. The strategy emphasizes that progression towards malaria-free status does not consist of a set of independent phases; instead, it is a continuous process requiring subnational stratification by malaria risk.

26. The strategy provides the technical underpinning for the second edition of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership's Global Malaria Action Plan, "Action and investment to defeat malaria 2016-2030", which is scheduled to be released in July 2015. The plan will focus on how the WHO strategy can best be implemented though global advocacy, resource mobilization, partner harmonization and the engagement of the transportation, industry, tourism, education and other public sectors, as well as the private sector. It positions malaria firmly in the post-2015 development agenda, showing how progress towards multiple sustainable development goals will be contingent on the success of malaria efforts. Joint regional consultations and separate public web consultations were held on the two documents between February and August 2014.

27. Since the previous progress report (A/68/854), WHO has issued updated guidelines on the treatment of malaria and guidance documents on temporary malaria control measures in Ebola-affected countries, recommended selection criteria for the procurement of malaria rapid diagnostic tests and the control of residual malaria parasite transmission. WHO has also developed a malaria elimination strategy for the Greater Mekong subregion and published elimination case studies (Bhutan, the island of Reunion, Malaysia and the Philippines) together with the Global Health Group at the University of California, San Francisco. In addition, the report of each meeting of the Malaria Policy Advisory Committee, the independent expert group that advises WHO on new malaria policies, has been published in the open-access *Malaria Journal*.

Regional collaboration and political commitment

28. In the Asia-Pacific region, recent years have witnessed growing political commitment to addressing the challenge of drug-resistant malaria. Countries of the

region, with leadership from Australia and Viet Nam, launched the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance at the East Asia Summit held in Brunei Darussalam in October 2013. In November 2014, 18 heads of State at the East Asia Summit made a commitment to eliminating the disease from the Asia-Pacific region by 2030. WHO welcomed the initiative and has been supporting the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance secretariat, based at the Asian Development Bank in Manila, with technical advice.

29. African Heads of State and Government continued to meet twice a year for a dedicated malaria forum at the African Union Summit to reaffirm their commitment to efforts to combat malaria. In 2015, 49 member States are working together under the auspices of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance. At the most recent forum, held in January 2015, leaders launched a 2030 scorecard towards malaria elimination and 12 countries received an award for excellence from the Alliance for expanding or sustaining malaria interventions. The Prime Minister of Ethiopia has chaired the Alliance since June 2014. In April 2015, African Union ministers of health reiterated their commitment to accelerating efforts to eradicate HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and agreed to develop a road map detailing key milestones that should be achieved by 2030.

30. The "A promise renewed" initiative has been endorsed by 178 Governments since its adoption at the Child Survival: Call to Action high-level forum, held in Washington, D.C., in June 2012. The initiative has triggered new commitments to protecting the most vulnerable communities in many malaria-endemic countries. The importance of expanding efforts to combat malaria and, in particular, the urgent need to tackle drug-resistant malaria have also been central to government efforts under the Global Health Security Agenda. Launched in February 2014 and adopted by more than 40 countries, the Agenda is an effort to reduce infectious disease threats and to promote global health security as an international security priority.

III. Urgent funding needs

31. While international disbursements for malaria have increased substantially since 2005, available funding remains well below the $5.1 billion needed to achieve universal coverage of malaria interventions in all endemic countries. International financing for malaria exceeded $2.1 billion in 2013, while national financing was estimated to be $527 million. The combined resources available for malaria efforts globally were estimated to be just in excess of $2.7 billion in 2013.

32. According to the WHO global strategy, the required funding for malaria investments will increase to an estimated $6.5 billion per year by 2020. This can be achieved only if international and national funding increase markedly in the coming five years. Throughout 2014, Roll Back Malaria partners, including WHO, provided technical support to endemic countries to develop malaria concept notes for the Global Fund. The estimated value of the financial support requested therein is $2.8 billion.

IV. Progress towards global goals and targets

33. The success of efforts to control and eliminate malaria is measured by progress made towards a set of targets for 2015 that have been designed through intergovernmental processes or set in the context of global initiatives. Progress is summarized each year by WHO in the *World Malaria Report*, which provides a comprehensive overview of trends in programme financing, intervention coverage and malaria cases and deaths. Data are received from national malaria control programmes in endemic countries, through WHO regional offices, and are complemented by information received through household surveys, notably demographic and health surveys, multiple indicator cluster surveys and malaria indicator surveys.

34. Assessing country progress towards global targets has been challenging in many high-burden countries in Africa, given that only a fraction of malaria cases and deaths are captured by disease surveillance systems. In 41 malaria-endemic countries, 32 of which are in Africa, an assessment of malaria trends can be made only using burden estimation methods that rely on a modelled relationship between malaria transmission, intervention coverage and case incidence or mortality.

Millennium Development Goal 6

35. Together with HIV/AIDS and other diseases, malaria control has been covered by Millennium Development Goal 6. The malaria-specific target has been to "have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria". Given that malaria accounts for 7 per cent of under-5 mortality globally, it has also been central to making progress towards Goal 4, target 4.A, "to reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-5 mortality rate". Global malaria efforts are also making a contribution to Goals 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8.

36. An assessment of global malaria trends between 2000 and 2013 indicates that the world is on track to achieve Goal 6, target 6.C. Between 2000 and 2013, malaria incidence rates — which take into account population growth — were reduced by 30 per cent globally and by 34 per cent in Africa. The malaria mortality rate decreased by 47 per cent worldwide during the same period and the decline in Africa was 54 per cent. On the basis of the data reported, 64 countries are on track to reverse malaria incidence and are therefore meeting Goal 6.

37. It is estimated that, had the malaria trends of the 1990s not been reversed, 670 million more malaria cases and 4.3 million more malaria deaths would have occurred between 2001 and 2013. A total of 3.9 million of those deaths would have occurred among children under 5 years of age in Africa; the number of deaths averted accounted for a reduction of 20 per cent in overall child mortality during that period. Most of the malaria cases averted (66 per cent) and lives saved (92 per cent) were in Africa. Progress is likely to be related to a combination of expanded malaria interventions, increased urbanization and overall economic development.

Abuja targets

38. By adopting the Abuja Declaration on Roll Back Malaria in Africa and its plan of action at the Extraordinary Summit of African Heads of State and Government, held in Abuja in April 2000, leaders of malaria-endemic countries in Africa committed themselves to halving malaria mortality by 2010. The target was later

extended to 2015. The Abuja Declaration also contained a commitment to reducing or waiving taxes and tariffs on imported antimalarial medicines, insecticide-treated nets and other essential malaria commodities. In 2006, the Declaration was complemented by the Abuja Call for Accelerated Action Towards Universal Access to HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Services in Africa.

39. Information on country progress in reducing malaria mortality will be made available by WHO later in the year. For now, progress towards the Abuja targets can be measured only through an analysis of trends in malaria incidence. In 2014, 12 countries in the WHO African region were on track to reduce malaria incidence by more than 50 per cent by 2015. Nine (Algeria, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Eritrea, Namibia, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa and Swaziland) have already reduced their case incidence by more than 75 per cent. Ethiopia, Zambia and Zimbabwe are projected to reach the target by 2015. In other African countries, it has not been possible to reliably assess malaria trends owing to incompleteness or inconsistency in reporting.

World Health Assembly targets

40. In 2005, the World Health Assembly set the target of reducing the malaria burden by 50 per cent between 2000 and 2010 and by 75 per cent by 2015. According to the *World Malaria Report 2014*, 58 of the 106 countries and territories with ongoing malaria transmission in 2000 were on track to achieve a reduction of 75 per cent in malaria mortality by 2015. Globally, malaria mortality was reduced by 47 per cent between 2000 and 2013, while the decline in Africa was 54 per cent. To achieve swifter progress towards the target, efforts need to be substantially expanded in the 16 countries with the highest burden, which account for an estimated 80 per cent of deaths from malaria.

Global Malaria Action Plan goals

41. The Roll Back Malaria Partnership's Global Malaria Action Plan was launched in 2008 to catalyse support for malaria control and elimination and to rally partners around a common plan of action. The objectives of the Action Plan, as revised in 2011, were to reduce global malaria deaths to "near zero" by the end of 2015, to reduce global malaria cases by 75 per cent by the end of 2015 and to eliminate malaria by 2015 in at least 8 to 10 new countries and in the WHO European region. The Partnership called for an estimated $5.1 billion annually to ensure universal coverage of malaria interventions. Those funding targets could not be fully achieved, however, partly because of decreases in global health and development funding triggered by the global financial crisis.

42. As the figures cited above show, there has been steady progress towards all those ambitious goals. To move closer to attaining the first two goals of the Action Plan, an urgent and significant expansion of financing would be required, in particular in the highest-burden countries. Meanwhile, the third goal has already been met: 10 new countries (within and outside the European region) have reduced local malaria transmission to zero since 2008 (Argentina, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Georgia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic and Uzbekistan). Three others have been certified by WHO as free of malaria since 2008 (Armenia, Morocco and Turkmenistan). With local transmission

confined to two countries in the European region in 2013 (Tajikistan and Turkey), that region is on track to reduce local malaria cases to zero by 2015.

V. Recommendations

43. **A concerted and coordinated global effort will be needed to substantially reduce malaria transmission, morbidity and mortality by 2030 and achieve the targets set by the new WHO global technical strategy for malaria (2016-2030). Progress can be accelerated through a multi-pronged response that is aimed at a major expansion of currently available life-saving interventions by making malaria a higher political priority, by increasing accountability, by strengthening regional and cross-border collaboration and by ensuring that the development and use of new tools and approaches are maximized.**

44. **The expansion of malaria interventions can be used as an entry point for strengthening health systems, including maternal and child health services and laboratory services, and to build stronger health information and disease surveillance systems. A further scaling-up of integrated community case management in the highest-burden countries and a strengthening of integrated delivery systems for malaria prevention tools would be a cost-effective solution to help to bridge systems gaps until health infrastructure is further strengthened.**

45. **There is an urgent need to increase the availability of financing for efforts to combat malaria through both traditional and innovative financing tools to alleviate the suffering caused by the disease. Only through substantial scaling-up and sustaining of coverage can countries prevent malaria resurgences and move towards the ambitious 2030 malaria targets. Adequate and predictable financing is also essential for recent successes to be protected. Were countries to fall back to existing levels of intervention coverage, much of the gains and investments dedicated to this cause could be swiftly erased.**

46. **Endemic countries are urged to increase the national resources that they make available to combat the disease. It is also recommended that they review and strengthen national strategic plans in line with WHO technical recommendations and embed them firmly in national health sector and development plans. To achieve better impact and ensure that successes are sustained, countries should increasingly adopt a multisectoral approach to combating the disease and build on synergies with other development priorities.**

47. **Global development partners and endemic countries should strengthen efforts to tackle emerging biological threats to malaria control. Parasite resistance to artemisinin can be prevented through the implementation of the WHO recommendations contained in the Global Plan for Artemisinin Resistance Containment. Strong political commitment is required to launch a coordinated and renewed effort to phase out the use of oral artemisinin-based monotherapies and to remove from markets antimalarial medicines that do not meet WHO prequalification standards. The emergence of insecticide resistance can be controlled through the adoption of recommendations contained in the Global Plan for Insecticide Resistance Management in Malaria Vectors.**

48. **There is a critical need to strengthen malaria surveillance and data quality in all endemic regions to enable ministries of health to direct financial resources to populations most in need and to respond effectively to disease outbreaks. Given the plethora of partners on the ground, mechanisms for country-based coordination of technical assistance should be strengthened to achieve alignment of the best approaches to implement WHO technical guidance. Additional financing is needed to support the sharing and analysis of best practices to address urgent programmatic challenges, to improve monitoring and evaluation and to conduct regular financial planning and gap analysis.**

49. **The contributions of the scientific community and the private sector remain essential. New products such as improved diagnostic tools, more effective medicines, new insecticides and more durable insecticide-treated bednets are all fundamental to ensuring sustained progress in efforts to combat the disease. The remarkable progress achieved can be maintained only through a concerted and focused multi-stakeholder effort, built on the foundation of global political commitment, continuous scientific advancement and vigorous innovation. An effective global partnership under the umbrella of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership will continue to be fundamental beyond 2015.**

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 101
Strengthening of security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region

Letter dated 22 May 2015 from the Permanent Representatives of Cyprus, Egypt and Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to inform you that the second trilateral meeting between the President of the Republic of Cyprus, the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic was held in Nicosia on 29 April 2015.

Following the meeting, a joint declaration was adopted reaffirming the consensus among the three countries on current international and regional issues, and outlining the parameters and principles for their trilateral cooperation aimed at promoting the values and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, good neighbourly relations, peace and stability (see annex).

It would be greatly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 101.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**
Permanent Representative
Republic of Cyprus

(*Signed*) Amr Abdellatif **Aboulatta**
Permanent Representative
Arab Republic of Egypt

(*Signed*) Catherine **Boura**
Permanent Representative
Hellenic Republic

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Annex

Cyprus-Egypt-Greece second trilateral summit

Nicosia Declaration 29 April 2015

We, Nicos Anastasiades, President of the Republic of Cyprus, Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt and Alexis Tsipras, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, cognizant of the immense and ever-growing challenges to the stability, security and prosperity of the eastern Mediterranean, the Middle East and the wider region, and aware of the need for a constant and concerted collective response, met in Nicosia on 29 April 2015 for the Cyprus-Egypt-Greece second trilateral summit to effectively address those challenges and to continue nurturing our tripartite cooperation, building on the significant progress achieved so far.

The second trilateral summit further strengthens our well-established tripartite partnership promoting peace, stability, security, prosperity and cooperation in all fields in the eastern Mediterranean (political, economic, trade, culture and tourism). In this respect, we reiterated our common position as reflected in the Cairo Declaration of 8 November 2014. This framework serves as a model for a broader regional dialogue, including through close coordination and cooperation in multilateral forums as well as through efforts to further promote relations between the European Union and the Arab world.

We acknowledge the importance of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation for the countries of the region. In particular, we fully support the efforts of the Union for the Mediterranean towards growth and socioeconomic development.

We emphasize and reaffirm our previous commitment to mobilizing all our capabilities to effectively promote common values and interests. This tripartite consultation mechanism, which meets regularly at various levels, aims to work towards unleashing the full potential of our region to the benefit of the peoples of our three countries and of the whole region.

The scourge of international terrorism threatens the Middle East, North Africa, the Sahel region and sub-Saharan Africa, the Gulf region and Europe. This universal threat requires a comprehensive, coordinated and collective response by the international community. We strongly condemn all terrorist actions and call upon all States to actively and effectively confront this menace and to step up cooperation on security matters with a view to countering extremist groups and exposing their political and financial supporters. We take note of the announcement at the latest summit of the League of Arab States held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt on 28 and 29 March 2015, on the formation of an Arab rapid reaction force to effectively tackle the terrorist threat.

We have agreed to step up cooperation on counter-terrorism and defence/security, discuss relevant information to jointly combat terrorism and violent extremism and promote regional security, long-term stability and prosperity.

We are encouraged by the recent gains of Iraqi forces in Iraq with the support of the anti-ISIL international coalition It appears, however, that significant challenges remain, taking into consideration the ability of ISIL to recruit additional fighters and its latest counter-attacks. With regard to Syria, we continue to support the efforts of the United Nations Special Envoy for a new political process in Syria

and to encourage collective action under the auspices of the United Nations on the basis of Security Council resolutions 2174 (2014) and 2178 (2014). We also emphasize the need to continue supporting regional countries that suffer from the spill-over effects of this crisis and extend our support to Egyptian efforts to facilitate consensus among the Syrian opposition groups to promote a political solution to the crisis in Syria in accordance with the Geneva Communiqué.

We are gravely concerned over the deterioration of the security situation in Libya and the growing terrorist threat there, which also affects security and stability in neighbouring countries. We therefore strongly support the implementation of a counter-terrorist strategy parallel to the political dialogue and reconciliation process and the implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 2213 (2015) and 2214 (2015). We express our support for the work of the Special Representative for Libya and, at the same time, reaffirm our position supporting the legitimate institutions, including the current Government in Al Bayda formed by the House of Representatives, until the formation of a national unity Government.

The deteriorating situation in Yemen threatens to destabilize the Gulf region, the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea region and the wider Middle East. We express our strong support for the legitimate Government of Yemen and for the preservation of its unity and territorial integrity. United Nations-led efforts to resume inclusive negotiations without preconditions are the only way forward and we welcome the efforts by the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf to complement such initiatives. All parties must fully implement relevant Security Council resolutions, in particular resolutions 2201 (2015) and 2216 (2015). We stress the need to address with determination the threat of extremist and terrorist groups present in Yemen. At the same time, all parties must ensure the protection of civilians and allow unrestricted access to humanitarian aid for the civilian population.

We call for the realization of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace settlement in the Middle East based on the relevant Security Council resolutions and the establishment of a sovereign, viable and contiguous Palestinian State on the territories occupied since 4 June 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and living in peace and security with all its neighbours, in accordance with the positions and initiatives taken by the European Union and the League of Arab States. Such a settlement remains the only guarantee of avoiding the recurrence of innocent civilian deaths, destruction and heightened tension. We strongly support the resumption of negotiations to achieve a comprehensive settlement on the basis of the two-State solution. In this context, we commend the continuing efforts of Egypt to reach a durable ceasefire in Gaza and to bring peace to the Middle East.

The increase of migratory fluxes constitutes a major challenge for our countries. We agree to mobilize all efforts at our disposal to prevent further loss of life at sea and to tackle the root causes of the human tragedy that we are facing, in cooperation with the countries of origin and transit.

We recognize that the discovery of important hydrocarbon reserves in the eastern Mediterranean can serve as a catalyst for regional cooperation. We stress that this cooperation would be better served through the adherence by the countries of the region to well-established principles of international law. In this respect, we emphasize the universal character of the United Nations Convention on the Law of

the Sea and decide to proceed expeditiously with our negotiations on the delimitation of our maritime zones where it is not yet done.

We also call for a just, comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Cyprus problem that will reunify the island in accordance with international law, including the relevant Security Council resolutions. Such a settlement would not only benefit the people of Cyprus as a whole but also significantly contribute to stability and peace in the region. We welcome the enhanced possibility of the resumption of negotiations and the implementation of confidence-building measures.

We agreed to explore all possibilities to further enhance the synergies among our economies, with a view to creating a more positive economic environment for growth, to tackle the challenges of a rapidly changing international economic situation and to jointly benefit from important opportunities arising in our region.

Recognizing that tourism and the maritime industry are vital components of the economy of all three countries, and following the signature on 29 October 2014 of the tripartite memorandum on cooperation in tourism among Cyprus, Greece and Egypt, we agreed to continue working closely together with a view to facilitating and enhancing cooperation on common projects, with the involvement of State and private actors, including developing joint tourism packages and cruises, enhancing the maritime connection between the three countries for the transfer of both cargo and passengers and initiating cooperation on maritime education and training.

Our three countries, convinced of the strategic nature of this trilateral mechanism, will continue working closely towards unleashing the full potential of their cooperation to the benefit of their peoples and to the wider region.

United Nations A/69/918–S/2015/372

General Assembly
Security Council

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4 June 2015
English
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General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 64 (a)
Promotion and protection of the rights of children: promotion and protection of the rights of children

Security Council
Seventieth year

Letter dated 21 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to submit herewith a non-paper, compiled as a courtesy by the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, which summarizes various proposals and ideas expressed by participants during the open debate convened on 25 March 2015 by the French presidency of the Security Council on the topic of children victims of armed non-State actors (see annex).

This non-paper, the purpose of which is to identify concrete and operational actions and measures to prevent and end violations against children by armed non-State actors during armed conflicts, does not represent an endorsement of its content by France or any other Member State or participant.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) François **Delattre**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-08682 (E) 230615 260615

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 21 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Non-paper

Proposals for action to protect children from non-State armed groups or actors (ANSAs)

On March 25 2015, the French Presidency of the Security Council organized an Open Debate on the topic of children victims of non-State armed groups or actors (ANSAs).

Despite prohibitions in international law and the existence of protective standards, grave violations against children are still being committed, in particular by ANSAs which are often difficult to approach for political or security reasons.

The purpose of this Open Debate was to identify concrete, operational and actionable actions and measures to prevent and end violations committed by ANSAs which represent a large variety of different groups and structures, and which react differently to each incentive or sanction.

The Open Debate was chaired by Ambassador François Delattre, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations and President of the Security Council. The following briefers addressed the Security Council: the Secretary-General; his Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Ms Leila Zerrougui; the Deputy Director Executive of UNICEF, Ms Yoka Brandt; Mr. Junior Nzita, former child soldier in DRC and President of the NGO "Paix pour l'Enfance"; and Ms. Julie Bodin, Child protection advisor of Save the Children in Central African Republic.

This non-paper, compiled by way of courtesy by the Permanent Mission of France, is a summary of the different proposals and ideas expressed by the participants during the Open Debate. **It does not represent an endorsement of all these proposals and their content by France or any other Member States or participant.**

The proposals are addressed to different types of stakeholders, which all have a responsibility and role to play in the protection of children from ANSAs, for further consideration:

1. For STATES:

1.1. Political dialogue

- *Facilitate* and take advantage of ongoing political dialogue, mediation or peace processes to enhance cooperation, where possible, with ANSAs, including young ANSA leaders, with a view to engage them and sensitize them on ending and preventing grave violations against children;
- *facilitate* access to ANSAs of Mediators, the United Nations and civil society to inform ANSAs about their obligations to end and prevent violations against children and negotiate action plans;

1.2. Legal framework and system

International obligations and principles

- *commit* to respecting international law as applicable, as well as complying with standards and principles with regard to the protection of the child;
- *ratify* the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict for States who have not done so already;
- *ratify* the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court which treats the recruitment of children under 15 years of age as a war crime; *welcome* the initiative of the ICC to develop a comprehensive Policy Paper on Children, so as to help protect children from further recruitment and use by ANSAs; and *explore* the work of the Trust Fund for Victims (TFV) elaborating a draft implementation plan for collective reparations;
- *commit* to the Paris Principles and Guidelines,[1] and Commitments of 2007,[2] and *propose* trainings and information on the Paris Principles to relevant national actors (government, security forces, diplomatic representatives etc.);

National and transitional justice

- *strengthen* national justice systems through provision of appropriate capacity and resources, including the development of legislation criminalizing grave violations of children's rights, and building transparent institutional investigative and prosecutorial capabilities to fight impunity of suspected perpetrators of grave violations of children's rights such as the recruitment or use of children by ANSAs;
- *make the full use of* measures of transitional justice in order to bring perpetrators of violations against children to justice, and, in line with international standards for juvenile justice, *find and promote* alternatives to detention if/when a child is found criminally responsible in accordance with the provisions of international law and UN guidelines on juvenile justice;

Fight against impunity

- *commit* to effectively hold perpetrators accountable before justice and *fully cooperate* with the international community and international organizations to make ANSAs accountable for their recruitment and use of child soldiers, as well as for other grave violations against children;
- *fight* against impunity, including regarding sexual and gender based violence committed against children, including violations committed by ANSAs;

[1] Available from https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/publications/ParisPrinciples_EN.pdf in English and https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/publications/ParisPrinciples_FR.pdf in French.

[2] Available from https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/publications/ParisCommitments_EN.pdf in English and https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/publications/ParisCommitments_FR.pdf in French.

- *consider establishing* legislation which puts in place military assistance restrictions to listed government security forces to press countries to take meaningful action to end and prevent grave violations;
- *put in place* vetting mechanisms in the case of integration of ANSAs into national armed forces to make sure that no perpetrators of grave violations against children are integrated, including high-ranking officers and rank-and-file;

1.3. Prevention

Anticipation and development

- *identify and address* the root causes (social, economic, ethnic, religious) that facilitate the recruitment or use of children by ANSAs through broad and diversified forms of actions;
- *put in place* measures to prevent the recruitment of children, including through the promotion of universal birth registration and the establishment of age-verification mechanisms;
- *implement* early warning mechanisms, in cooperation with civil society, the UN and other international organizations, to detect and respond to risks and threats regarding violations of children's rights during armed conflict;

Outreach and advocacy

- *develop* campaigns in schools and through the radio and other media tools, and reach out to children, in particular in less developed, rural and isolated areas, and who might be affected by or get involved in ANSAs, including through cybercriminality;
- *interact* with the local actors, civil society and religious leaders to advocate for and support the protection and respect for children's rights, including to prevent child recruitment and use;
- *promote and explain* the Paris Principles and Commitments as a tool of prevention;

Support

- *provide* technical and financial support, including to local structures, to enhance capacity to prevent recruitment and use of children by ANSAs;

1.4. Reporting and data collection

- *improve* the collection of information and data on ANSAs based on their structure, financing, motivations, size and military command, so as to better differentiate them, design specific measures for each ANSA, and adapt advocacy and response to end and prevent grave violations against children;
- *support* the UN Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), by participating actively in coordination meetings, sharing data and information on all six grave violations and engage with Country Task Forces on MRM on remedial actions;

- *give specific attention* to data collection related to the situation of girls and other vulnerable children including those with disabilities, and cumulative violations they are subjected to, so as to adapt protection and reintegration programmes to their needs;

1.5. DDR

Elaboration and Financing of DDR programmes

- *elaborate, support and implement* child sensitive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes for children formerly associated with armed forces and groups, with dedicated attention and resources to the special needs of girls and children with disabilities;
- *provide* sufficient and predictable long term funding and allocation of government budget for such programmes;
- *involve* all branches of the government, the United Nations and civil society in the elaboration and implementation of DDR processes and *create* technical groups at national and local levels for the elaboration of DDR programmes;

Rehabilitation and comprehensive reintegration

- *rehabilitate and reintegrate* children economically, socially and culturally in the society and provide durable socioeconomic alternatives in order to avoid their re-recruitment by the same or other groups;
- *include* psychological care, including, where necessary, counselling in such programmes;
- *integrate* prevention of child recruitment as part of every security sector reform through for example establishing and/or institutionalizing age-verification systems, and integrating child protection into training and military curricula;
- *sensitize* all actors, in particular locally, on the phenomenon of stigmatization that child soldiers are often exposed to, in order to facilitate more successful reintegration of children who have actively participated in armed conflict;

1.6. Military action

- *ensure* that the rules of engagement of national security forces and standard operating procedures include precise and consistent child protection provisions, including on handling children suspected of or found to be associated with ANSAs and encountered in the course of operations, on their separation from armed groups and on their transfer to child protection actors;
- *make sure* that the necessary measures are taken in accordance with international humanitarian law so that armed forces do not attack schools and immediately *cease* attacks and threats of attacks against schools, students and teachers, and *refrain from* actions that impede children's access to education and to health services, in line with resolution 2143;
- *ensure* appropriate and regular training of troops on international humanitarian and human rights law and child protection standards, including on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, prior to military operations;

1.7. Violent extremism

Counter-terrorism

- *encourage* dialogue and cooperation between local or religious leaders to avoid and counter radicalization, manipulation and recruitment of children by extremist ANSAs;
- *develop* effective counter terrorism strategies which include measures to address the use of social media and online child recruitment by extremist groups, so as to fight extremist cybercriminality;

Respect of international standards

- *ensure* that the fight against terrorism and violent extremism is conducted in compliance with international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law;
- *avoid* the detention of children suspected of or found to be associated with violent extremist or terrorist ANSAs in the fight against extremism, and consider children primarily as victims;
- *make sure* that the fight against terrorism does not criminalize contact for solely humanitarian reasons with ANSAs considered as violent extremists;
- *establish* standard operating procedures for the treatment, transfer and reintegration of children suspected or found to be associated with violent extremist or terrorist ANSAs;

1.8. Education and health

Assistance and support

- *provide* the adequate medical, psychosocial and reintegration programmes and services to children survivors of sexual and gender-based violence;
- *give full attention* to the suffering of children who have been victims of violations, particularly girls, so as to provide adequate support to help them overcome any negative experiences and, in some cases, trauma;
- *implement* informational campaigns, including locally and in schools, to fight stigmatization of pregnant girls and raped or sexually abused children;

Protection of infrastructure

- *implement* Security Council resolution 2143 (2014);
- *support* the promotion of the Guidance Note on Attacks on Schools and Hospitals developed by the Office of the SRSG CAAC, UNICEF, UNESCO and WHO;
- *consider* concrete measures to deter military use of schools and hospitals in contravention of applicable international law, such as through sensitization and information (for instance through short trainings, ministerial circulars etc.) of national security forces on this resolution;
- *take concrete measures* to protect schools and hospitals from attacks and make them safer, by developing early warning mechanisms to identify risks, as well as safety planning for children and defining secure places;

- *follow* the ongoing consultations on the development of the "Guidelines on the protection of schools and universities in armed conflict" as well as on the "Safe School Declaration";

1.9. Natural resources

- *Address* the issue of recruitment and use of children by ANSAs in the fight against exploitation and trafficking of natural resources.

2. For THE UNITED NATIONS:

2.1. Listing, Monitoring and Reporting

- *address* the worrisome pattern of abduction of children by adding abductions as a new trigger for listing parties in the annex of the annual SG report on children and armed conflict in line with resolution 1379 (2001);
- *encourage* UN agencies and relevant international organizations and actors to actively contribute to the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations, and *strengthen* coordination among them, in compliance with relevant resolutions such as 1612 (2005) which established the MRM;

2.2. Sanctions Committees

- *enhance* coordination between sanction committees, panels of experts, SRSG and the Security Council Working group on Children and Armed Conflict through the exchange of pertinent information and regular briefings by SRSG to sanctions committees, and her and her office's meetings with panels of experts;
- *include*, where needed, a child protection focus and possible dedicated international human rights and humanitarian law expertise in panels of experts and expert groups of relevant sanctions committees, so as to monitor violations against children in armed conflict and make recommendations for listing;

2.3. Mediation and Negotiation

Peace agreements

- *Include more systematically* child protection provisions, including those relating to the release and reintegration of children, in all peace negotiations and agreements;
- *make sure* the unconditional release of children suspected of or found to be associated with ANSAs and their reintegration are reflected in all peace and cease-fire agreements, and are being aimed at in contexts where negotiations haven't started or have failed;
- *elaborate* guidance for Mediators or Special Envoys on how to include child protection provisions in peace agreements as well as in their daily negotiation efforts;

Dialogue

- *work* in close cooperation with State authorities when encouraging ANSAs to engage in protecting children in armed conflicts;
- *develop*, within the Office of the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict, and in collaboration with other stakeholders and actors on the field, a working paper on engaging non-State armed groups, drawing on the best practices and innovative tools available;

Action plans and deeds of commitment

- *develop and facilitate* the negotiation and signature of action plans by ANSAs to end and prevent recruitment and use of children as well as other grave violations of children;
- *cooperate* with civil society who can help promote deeds of commitment, while avoiding that the signing of these documents by ANSAs leads to political exploitation of this issue or is used as a means of propaganda to claim legitimacy;

2.4. Peacekeeping

Mandates

- *ensure* the inclusion of child protection provisions and resources in mandates of peace operations;
- *thoroughly* evaluate mandates due for renewal with a view to considering the degree of protection given to children and to strengthening the mandate accordingly;
- *involve*, through clear provisions in UN peacebuilding mandates, local actors through joint outreach programmes and "peer-to-peer" initiatives to facilitate release and reintegration;
- *plan* organized and resourced transfer of child protection activities in situations in which the mission is drawing down;

Operating procedures

- *include* child protection provisions, including on how to address children suspected of or found to be associated with ANSAs, in UN military and police rules of engagement and standard operating procedures;
- *develop* standard operating procedures for peacekeeping troops on the transfer of children suspected of or found to be associated with ANSAS to child protection actors;
- *prepare* concrete strategies, with relevant UN agencies on the field and in collaboration with other local stakeholders, on how to engage with different ANSAs, taking into account the environment in which they are operating;
- *establish* procedures for alerting child protection actors to child specific concerns the contributing troops may observe during their operations;

Deployment

- *continue* deploying child protection advisors in political and peacekeeping missions, and *ensure* a strengthened coordination with other protection actors and advisors within and outside of the mission;
- *deploy* more local female police officers and women peacekeepers to encourage children victims of sexual crimes to report them;
- *appoint* child protection focal points within the ranks of all contributing troops;

Training

- *continue to undertake* mandatory, more regular, targeted and operational training of UN military troops and police contingents on child protection before and during deployment, using the training materials developed by DPKO, OSRSG-CAAC and UNICEF on child protection which should be regularly updated;
- *scale up* predeployment training of UN personnel on children's rights in armed conflicts, including on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, so as to become a standard practice for the UN, in coordination with regional organizations;

Support

- *continue* discussions within the C34 so as to find the best solutions for the challenges facing peacekeeping missions in providing the full protection for children in armed conflicts;
- *ensure*, among Child Protection clusters, regular meetings with civil society and NGOs to discuss the strategy of support, identification, referral and reintegration of children;

2.5. Communication and Information

Informing ANSAs

- *inform* ANSAs about their commitments under international law, including international humanitarian law and work closely with relevant international and civil society actors or organizations such as ICRC who are already involved in the sector; *consider* establishing a working group to define the role of each actor;
- *inform* ANSAs about their listing in the SG annual reports and its implications;
- *inform* ANSAs about the conclusions of the Security Council's Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict;
- *call* for a response by the ANSA concerned, including a report of the implementation of action plans and Working Group recommendations;

Communicating

- *sensitize and dialogue* with States and ANSAs as well as relevant leaders, so as to avoid child recruitment, facilitate access to ANSAs and improve the implementation by States of their legal obligations;
- *reinforce* communication (press statements and through social networks) on the state of play of action plans and of the campaign "Children, not Soldiers";
- *regularly examine* the Working Group's toolkit and *use* more often its public communication tools such as press conferences, briefings with civil society experts, presidential declarations on concrete situations, and *explore* new communication strategies through social networks to reach children and ANSAs;

Exchange of information between stakeholders

- *regularize* the exchange of information and communication between the Working Group, the Office of the Special Representative and the International Criminal Court, by inviting the Prosecutor of the Court for briefings and direct exchange of information;
- *encourage* the exchange of information between States through legal cooperation agreements;

2.6. Mainstreaming in the international agenda

- *include* a focus on child protection in the run up to the World Humanitarian Summit;
- *include* a clear objective on child protection in the post-2015 development agenda.

3. For REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- *Promote and strengthen* cooperation at a regional and subregional level, including with civil society, to develop regional strategies to facilitate the promotion and implementation of action plans by ANSAs;
- *work closely* with States and the United Nations to help negotiating and signing of action plans by ANSAs, as well as monitoring compliance of these action plans and of child protection provisions of peace processes;
- *work closely* with the United Nations in the implementation of agreements on children and armed conflict signed between regional organizations and the SRSG-CAAC (namely the African Union, the League of Arab States) or in the implementation of their own CAAC policies (AU, European Union and NATO);
- *coordinate* with the United Nations on standard practices regarding predeployment training of regional troops and personnel on children in armed conflicts;
- *include* child protection provisions, including on how to address children associated with ANSAs, in regional peace operations' mandates, rules of engagement and operating procedures;

- *develop* standard procedures for regional forces on the separation and transfer of children associated with ANSAS to child protection services and actors;
- *deploy* child protection advisors in regional peace support operations;
- *help* strengthening and building national capacities of States, through training or technical assistance, regarding child protection in armed conflict;

4. For OTHER STAKEHOLDERS:

4.1. ANSAs

- *immediately cease* all forms of violence against children, including the recruitment and abduction of children;
- *abide* by their obligations under applicable international law;
- *negotiate, adopt, sign and implement* action plans to end and prevent violations against children;
- *engage* with governments, official authorities and the United Nations to end hostilities and release all children from their ranks;
- *engage* with protection and humanitarian actors who support formerly associated children in their release and reintegration, including by facilitating access to areas under their control;

4.2. Civil society

- *build regular links* with local actors to enhance confidence building and facilitate access to ANSAs; *engage* dialogue when sure to provide a response, so as to avoid frustration and rupture of the trust;
- *dialogue* with local and religious leaders and other relevant actors to help preventing child recruitment, indoctrination and facilitate reintegration;
- *ensure* that ANSAs which seek to justify the recruitment and use of children in the pursuit of ideological goals are held accountable;

4.3. Donors

- *secure* more long-term, sufficient and predictable financial resources for the expeditious implementation of the agenda of children and armed conflict;
- *guarantee* the full support and funding to programmes and activities for children formerly associated with armed groups/forces, with a focus on those who were separated from their families and the survivors of rape and other forms of sexual violence;
- *ensure* timely and adequate international support as well as sufficient and predictable funding for DDR dedicated to children;
- *support* NGOs who have built confidence measures and established dialogue with ANSAs.

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Security Council

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2 June 2015
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 107
Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 29 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I wish to convey to you the following information:

Takfirist terrorist groups continue their attacks on Syrian educational institutions, targeting the students, teachers and staff of those institutions with their savage criminal acts.

On 20 May 2015, terrorist groups fired a mortar shell at Muhammad Qasim al-Thaqafi Primary School in the Syrian capital of Damascus, killing a teacher and wounding 17 children. A list of the victims' names and the various injuries they sustained is attached.

This terrorist crime is fresh evidence of the great hostility of what some like to call the "moderate armed opposition" to knowledge, culture and education, and of those groups' obscurantist zeal to spread their ideas, which are rooted in ignorance, *takfirism* and extremism.

The Syrian Arab Republic once again calls on the Security Council to uphold its duty to condemn and hold accountable the regimes of State sponsors of terrorism, chief among them the ruling regimes in Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, and to compel them to desist from their destructive practices, which threaten international peace and security.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-08706 (E) 030615 030615

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Annex to identical letters dated 29 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Ministry of Social Affairs

Names of children injured by the terrorist shelling of Muhammad Qasim al-Thaqafi School on 20 May 2015

Names of children taken to Shami Hospital

	Name	*Father's name*	*Mother's name*	*Year of birth*	*Occupation*	*Type of injury*	*Health condition*	*Telephone number*
1.	Qusay Mustafa	Mahmud	Bayan Al-'Uwayd	2003	Student	Shrapnel in hands and feet	Stable with minor injuries	3137060
2.	Yahya Qarrah Jawli	Riyad	Bushra Jum'ah	2003	Student	Shrapnel in hands and feet	Stable with minor injuries	0944770076
3.	Yaman al-Mugharbali	Mahir	Nadiya Dibs Walin	2003	Student	Shrapnel in hands and feet	Stable with minor injuries	3710215
4.	Umar Mukabbah	Ahmad	A'idah Jadiba	2002	Student	Shrapnel in hands and feet	Stable with minor injuries	0955957552
5.	Ahmad al-Hallaq	Wasim	Azza Arabi Kani	2000	Student	Shrapnel in lower back	Critical	3214116
6.	Muhammad Ayyubi	–	–	2003	Student	Shrapnel in hands and feet	Stable with minor injuries	–
7.	Zayd al-Ashqar	Muhammad	–	2003	Student	Shrapnel in head	Critical	0944411099
8.	Ghadir Abu Duhays	Muhammad	Thuraya	1981	Teacher	Right eye and chest	Deceased	0933365466
9.	Malak Maski	–	–	2000	Student	Shrapnel in side and feet	Moderate injuries	–

Names of children taken to Muwasat Hospital

	Name	*Occupation*	*Health condition*
1.	Badr Khan Badr Khan	Student	Stable with minor injuries
2.	Jalal Badr Khan	Student	Stable with minor injuries
3.	Riyad al-Tallah	Student	Stable with minor injuries
4.	Iyad Murad	Student	Stable with minor injuries
5.	Muhammad Bayazid	Student	Stable with minor injuries
6.	Majid Abdullah	Student	Stable with minor injuries
7.	Talal Kashin	Student	Stable with minor injuries
8.	Nur al-Din Basha	Student	Stable with minor injuries
9.	Minas Abdu	Teacher	Stable with minor injuries

United Nations A/69/920

General Assembly

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2 June 2015

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 112 (e)
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of members of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

Letter dated 19 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you that, according to the rotation agreement among the States members of the Eastern European States for membership in the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, Georgia is relinquishing its seat on the Commission in favour of the Czech Republic on the last day prior to the beginning of the forty-eighth session of the Commission, in July 2015.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 112 (e).

(*Signed*) Kaha **Imnadze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

15-08755 (E) 020615

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United Nations A/69/921

General Assembly

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3 June 2015

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 138
Joint Inspection Unit

Recommendations to the General Assembly for the determination of parameters for a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled: "Recommendations to the General Assembly for the determination of parameters for a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States".

15-08704 (E) 040615

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JIU/REP/2015/2

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR THE DETERMINATION OF PARAMETERS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM SUPPORT FOR SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Recommendations to the General Assembly of the United Nations for the determination of parameters for a comprehensive review of United Nations System support for small island developing States

JIU/REP/2015/2

Objective and scope

The present report has been prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/217 of 19 December 2014, in paragraph 12 of which the Assembly recalled paragraphs 116 to 120 of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa in September 2014, and, in that regard requested the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU)

> **to make recommendations in order to facilitate the work of the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session in determining, as soon as possible, and by no later than March 2015, the parameters of a comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States, with a view to enhancing the overall effectiveness of such support and respective roles in supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States in order to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach by the United Nations system to further improve and strengthen its overall effectiveness.**

The SAMOA Pathway was endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014. In line with its paragraphs 116 to 120, the present report focuses on the institutional support provided by the United Nations system to small island developing States (SIDS), identifying areas that should be addressed in a comprehensive review to strengthen implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

In preparing the report, the Inspectors met with representatives of Member States and officials of the United Nations system organizations. On the basis of their findings from interviews in New York and Geneva, the Inspectors recalibrated the scope and coverage of their review to focus on the analysis of institutional support and coordination mechanisms, interlinkages between intergovernmental processes and inter-agency processes in New York, and the mandates and roles of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS). DESA and OHRLLS are at the core of the architecture for United Nations system support for SIDS (see annex I).

The review provides a preliminary synthesis of data collected through a system-wide survey completed by more than 20 JIU participating organizations and the secretariats of environmental conventions, to assess the contribution they make to the priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway, by means of implementation. The data reveal strong ongoing support for work in the areas of climate change, sustainable energy, poverty eradication and gender equality, inter alia (see annex II). The format of the present report, its restricted scope and the time constraints laid down in resolution 69/217 did not allow for extensive use of the information collected, which will remain available for further analysis, should JIU be tasked with undertaking a comprehensive review in the future.

Main findings

The review resulted in the following findings:

(a) Need for clarification of roles and linkages: improved communication and mechanisms for system-wide coordination must be put in place to increase the effectiveness of system-wide institutional support for SIDS;

(b) Overlap and lack of clarity: the existing grey areas and overlap in the mandates of the OHRLLS and DESA Units for SIDS, combined with barely perceptible coordination between them and a weak communication strategy, generates confusion among Member States with regard to identifying roles, responsibilities, achievements and interlocutors within the United Nations Secretariat.

(c) The limited resources allocated to the DESA and OHRLLS Units for SIDS — fewer than 10 staff members — and the dispersal of the Units, which are embedded in two separate entities of the United Nations Secretariat, do not assist with meeting the expectations of Member States in addressing ever-expanding mandates;

(d) The Climate Change Support Team of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General: in view of the relevance of climate change for SIDS, stronger coordination with DESA and OHRLLS should be set up in strengthening the institutional support provided by the United Nations Secretariat;

(e) Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) for SIDS: the Group, which is chaired by DESA, is a hybrid inter-agency forum for organizations providing support to SIDS to meet to exchange information and cooperate. Its role is as yet unclear to external stakeholders and the criteria for membership, which involves non-United Nations system entities, are not clearly defined.

(f) Greater interaction with SIDS representatives and, in particular, with the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), should be institutionalized;

(g) The role of funds, programmes and specialized agencies: these were found to be essential for translating headquarters mandates into action in the field. Such linkages should be strengthened in order to consolidate system-wide institutional support for SIDS and achieve more effective delivery at the regional and country levels;

(h) The role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as a pioneering organization which has supported the development of SIDS for decades should be reassessed and revalorized, on the basis of its extensive expertise and knowledge of the vulnerabilities and needs of SIDS;

(i) The role of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Development Group (UNDG)/United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office (UNDOCO), the resident coordinator system and the regional commissions, as well as other regional political and technical forums, should be addressed in the comprehensive review in designing a system-wide strategy for effective implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

(j) The role of the environmental conventions: environmental vulnerability with regard to issues such as climate change, biodiversity, oceans, chemicals and waste management is a common concern among SIDS. A comprehensive review could assess the adequacy of the current institutional set-up to effectively connect the work developed under the umbrella of the environmental conventions to the overall system-wide support for SIDS.

The report resulted in six recommendations to the General Assembly, aimed at ensuring that the review contributes to improving effectiveness, coordination, accountability and communication, and to strengthening synergies among the various institutional partners in the system, with a view to achieving better service delivery for small island developing States.

Recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly of the United Nations

Recommendation 1

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review addresses the necessary linkages between the SAMOA Pathway and the United Nations global mandates on related key issues, such as the post-2015 development agenda, disaster risk reduction, financing for development, climate change, chemicals and waste management, human rights and gender equality, with a view to strengthening system-wide coherence and ensuring effective system-wide support for the sustainable development of SIDS through adequate provision of resources.

Recommendation 2

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review evaluates the current allocation of resources, as well as their effective and efficient use, at the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters, with a view to improving governance and effective coordination in the delivery of the mandates given by the General Assembly to DESA and OHRLLS to support SIDS.

Recommendation 3

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review identifies all relevant entities of the United Nations Secretariat, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the regional commissions, contributing to support for the sustainable development of small island developing States, and that it proposes effective ways for the Secretariat to strengthen its programmatic coordination and integrated reporting.

Recommendation 4

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review assesses the role and functioning of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States (IACG) and proposes concrete measures to strengthen its effectiveness as a coordinating forum, involving all the relevant institutional partners, from the United Nations system and non-United Nations entities, such as the international financial institutions, to foster the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and to facilitate its monitoring.

Recommendation 5

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review analyses the institutional set-up in place in accordance with paragraphs 122 to 124 of the SAMOA Pathway and the coordination process aimed at monitoring and reporting on its effective implementation, with a view to preventing overlap and fostering synergies across the United Nations system.

Recommendation 6

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review addresses institutional and managerial mechanisms for strengthening coordination between DESA and OHRLLS in performing the tasks related to their respective mandates on support to SIDS, in order to avoid overlap and enhance the effectiveness of their work, and to increase transparency in their communication with Member States.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AIMS	Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
BPOA	Barbados Programme of Action
BRS	Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDP	Committee for Development Policy, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
CEB	United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination
COP	Conference of the Parties
DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECESA	Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EMG	Environment Management Group (UNEP)
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HLCM	High-Level Committee on Management
HLCP	High-Level Committee on Programmes
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IACG	Inter-Agency Consultative Group for SIDS
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
LDC	Least Developed Countries
MEA	Multilateral environmental agreement
MSI	Mauritius Strategy Initiative
OHRLLS	Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island developing States
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
SAMOA	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA)
SDG	Sustainable development goal
SIDS	Small island developing States

UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCT	United Nations country team
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDG LAC	UNDG for Latin America and the Caribbean
UNDOCO	United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNOSSC	United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation
UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNWTO	World Tourism Organization
UPU	Universal Postal Union
WFP	World Food Programme
WHC	World Heritage Convention (UNESCO)
WHO	World Health Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 12 of its resolution 69/217, adopted on 19 December 2014, the General Assembly, recalled paragraphs 116 to 120 of the SAMOA Pathway[1] and requested the Joint Inspection Unit:

> *to make recommendations in order to facilitate the work of the General Assembly* at its sixty-ninth session in determining, as soon as possible, and by *no later than March 2015*, the parameters of a *comprehensive review of United Nations system support for small island developing States*, with a view to *enhancing the overall effectiveness of such support and respective roles* in supporting the sustainable development of small island developing States in order to ensure a coherent and coordinated approach by the United Nations system to further improve and strengthen its overall effectiveness and delivery with respect to small island developing States and the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of small island developing States and the SAMOA Pathway;[2]

2. In response to that request, the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) included such a review in its programme of work for 2015, adopted at its resumed winter session in January 2015. A survey was launched through questionnaires addressed to 28 United Nations system organizations and secretariats of environmental conventions. Interviews with representatives of Member States and officials of the organizations were held in New York and Geneva. Videoconferences were organized with small island developing States (SIDS) field offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

3. As a result of the findings from the interviews and videoconferences, the initial scope of the review was reduced, to focus on identifying weaknesses in the institutional support to SIDS, as well as potential areas for improvement and scope for synergies. On the basis of those findings, the Inspectors propose six recommendations to the General Assembly to facilitate its work in defining the parameters of a comprehensive review to be undertaken in the future.

4. Given the tight deadline of March 2015, organizations were requested on very short notice to contribute to the review and were not given the opportunity, usually provided by JIU standard practice, to comment on the final draft. The time constraints and the format of the present report did not allow for it to fully reflect the wealth of information received through the survey. That information will be kept available for further use and analysis, should JIU be tasked with undertaking the comprehensive review referred to in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 69/217.

5. In accordance with article 11.2 of the JIU statute, the present report has been completed after consultation among the Inspectors with a view to testing its conclusions and recommendations against the collective wisdom of the Unit.

6. The Inspectors would like to thank the JIU participating organizations and the secretariats of the environmental conventions, as well as other stakeholders that contributed to the findings of the present review for their valuable input, and express their appreciation to all who provided assistance in the preparation of the present report, and particularly to those who participated in the interviews and so willingly shared their knowledge and expertise.

[1] The "SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway" resulted from the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Samoa in September 2014. It was subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 69/15 of 14 November 2014.

[2] Emphasis added by the Inspectors.

II. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES: MANDATES AND MAPPING OF KEY PARTNERS

A. United Nations global mandates

7. In March 2015, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction was adopted in Japan. Other universal mandates highly relevant to SIDS will be renewed during 2015, such as Financing for Development (in Addis Ababa in May), the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) (in New York in September) and the climate change framework (at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris in December).[3]

8. At the closing ceremony of the International Year of Small Island Developing States[4] in February 2015, the need for a sustainable development package embracing the linkages between global mandates and the SAMOA Pathway was brought up. The implementation of the SAMOA Pathway should take place within the broader framework of the United Nations development agenda, in line with paragraph 3 of the Pathway, which addresses the overarching principles for supporting the sustainable development of SIDS.[5]

9. This is clearly indicated in the statement of the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS)[6] at the stocktaking session of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda in January 2015:

> The post-2015 development agenda must therefore advance the priorities of SIDS. And these priorities have been clearly articulated in the SAMOA Pathway agreed to last year. We strongly reiterate that the SAMOA Pathway, as the SIDS contribution to the post-2015 development agenda, must be fully integrated into our discussions and into the final agenda.[7]

In the light of the above, and in order to ensure system-wide coherence and effectiveness in implementing the SAMOA Pathway within the overarching framework provided by the United Nations development agenda, the Inspectors recommend that:

Recommendation 1

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review addresses the necessary linkages between the SAMOA Pathway and the United Nations global mandates on related key issues, such as the post-2015 development agenda, disaster risk reduction, financing for development, climate change, chemicals and waste management, human rights and gender equality, with a view to strengthening system-wide coherence and ensuring effective system-wide support for the sustainable development of SIDS through adequate provision of resources.

10. Mapping of key stakeholders and their respective mandates to support SIDS within the United Nations system is presented below, including inter-agency/intergovernmental mechanisms. Mapping aims at facilitating

[3] http://www.wcdrr.org/uploads/Sendai_Framework_for_Disaster_Risk_Reduction_2015-2030.pdf.

[4] See http://unohrlls.org/news/24-february-2015-reviewing-a-big-year-for-small-islands/.

[5] The need for the sustainable development of small islands was addressed in 1992 in Agenda 21, chapter 17, section G.

[6] Information on AOSIS membership and different SIDS groupings used within the United Nations system and other international forums is provided in annex IV.

[7] See statement delivered by Ahmed Sareer, Permanent Representative of Maldives to the United Nations, on behalf of AOSIS, available from http://aosis.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/2015.01.19-Statement-Stocktaking-General-FINAL.pdf.

the determination of parameters to clarify roles and identify coordination mechanisms to ensure effective delivery of institutional and capacity-building support to SIDS by the United Nations system.

B. Mapping of key partners in the United Nations system

United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters

11. At the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters, two units are mandated to deal with SIDS. They share the same name although they are embedded in different parts of the Secretariat:

(a) The SIDS Unit hosted by the Division of Sustainable Development of the Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA);

(b) The SIDS Unit of the Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS).

12. The establishment of an entity within the predecessor of DESA, the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, to address SIDS issues was requested as early as December 1994 by the General Assembly in paragraph 15 of resolution 49/122, in which it requested

> the Secretary-General to establish within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development *a clearly identifiable entity* with the *resources and number of qualified and competent professional and support staff that are necessary to undertake its broad range of functions* in support of the system-wide implementation of the Programme of Action. [8]

13. The establishment of the Small Island Developing States Unit within the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development was noted by the General Assembly in resolution 50/116 in 1996.

14. Salient threats now identified were largely unknown at the time of the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS, held in Barbados in 1994, such as vulnerability to climate change, an area in which science had not yet provided the sound knowledge for policy-making that is now available through the regular reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Climate change is a matter of survival for most SIDS, and resources required to address their needs are even more critical and urgent than at the time the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) was adopted.

15. The successive General Assembly resolutions on SIDS refer to the need to strengthen the DESA/SIDS Unit and to provide it with adequate resources. The historical evolution of the mandates on SIDS led to a long list of assignments to DESA, and later on to OHRLLS, within the Secretariat (see annex I). The ever-expanding mandates of both Units gave rise to some grey areas, paving the way for potential duplication and lack of clarity.

16. In 2002, further to the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the General Assembly, in its resolution 56/227, established OHRLLS, with the main objective of ensuring a highly visible, efficient and effective follow-up and monitoring arrangement for the implementation of programmes of action for least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. [9]

17. In practice, work previously assigned to DESA for SIDS and to UNCTAD for least-developed countries (LDCs) was redistributed and assigned to OHRLLS. DESA has retained the responsibility for preparing analysis and providing input for the Secretary-General's report, while OHRLLS is responsible for resource mobilization, coordination and advocacy. The monitoring task is carried out jointly, with input from OHRLLS being channelled through DESA for the preparation of the Secretary-General's report.

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[8] Emphasis added.

[9] See the OHRLLS mandate on SIDS, available from http://unohrlls.org/about-sids/un-ohrlls-mandate/.

18. The tasks of DESA include inter-agency co-ordination, advisory services and capacity building support, information dissemination, and facilitating, monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the SIDS conference outcomes, as listed below:

- Establish (strengthen – 59/229) SIDSnet within the Unit and assist SIDS with, inter alia, project implementation advice and assistance in the identification of short-and long-term capacity needs through coordination **with regional and international institutions**. (General Assembly resolution 56/198);
- Increasing and improving the **United Nations system-wide coordination and dissemination of information** on activities in support of SIDS and BPOA (General Assembly resolution 56/198);
- Enhance coordination and cooperation within the United Nations system **and with other relevant multilateral organizations** to ensure the effective implementation and monitoring of, and follow-up to, the outcome of the 10-year review of BPOA (General Assembly resolution 58/213).

19. According to information from interviews with OHRLLS officials, its mandate to support SIDS was strengthened following the Mauritius and Samoa Conferences on SIDS and includes new issues, those of ensuring coherence and synergies at the global, regional and national levels, and of mainstreaming the SAMOA Pathway into the work of the United Nations system organizations. The areas of potential duplication and overlap with DESA have thus expanded. In addition to the ongoing collaboration, clearer delineation of responsibilities between the two Units would contribute to improving coordination and avoiding duplication.

20. The dual assignment of functions is aggravated by the fact that the two SIDS Units are embedded in different departments within the United Nations Secretariat, with no clearly established lines of coordination, which generates lack of clarity on closely related areas of their mandates, as recognized by stakeholders during the research undertaken for the present review.[10]

21. The overall resources of OHRLLS and DESA for the provision of support to SIDS and, in particular, for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, amount to fewer than 10 staff members, to respond to ever-expanding mandates.[11] Noting that Secretariat resources fall under the purview of the Secretary-General, and believing that the dispersal of resources between different departments might not be the most effective way to use them, **the Inspectors are of the view that Member States should consider exploring the pertinence of a reorganization of existing resources aimed at enhanced effectiveness in jointly delivering results.**

22. The need for improved coordination was addressed in the interviews. However, some SIDS representatives also indicated that the DESA/SIDS Unit was not being adequately supported nor given the means to adequately respond to the urgent issues relevant to SIDS. The recent disaster in the Pacific as a result of Cyclone Pam[12] underlines that, while natural disasters cannot be avoided as such, their impact is proportional to the vulnerability profile of the affected States. **The Inspectors are of the view that it is urgent for the United Nations system to effectively contribute to building resilience in SIDS in order to reduce their vulnerability to climate change and other related events.** Coordination at United Nations Headquarters is essential to spearhead successful, more effective, targeted support for SIDS to address critical threats to their survival.[13]

23. The Inspectors noted that the support given by the United Nations to address special needs of LDCs, in particular to Africa through the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and lessons learned from

[10] Similar issues were raised in the background paper for the Committee on Development Policy (CDP) of the Economic and Social Council. Five years later, many issues were still relevant. See CDP Background Paper No. 10 (ST/ESA/2010/CDP/10), June 2010, "Views and perspectives of the Committee for Development Policy on United Nations support for small island developing States", by Philippe Hein. Available from www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/cdp_background_papers/bp2010_10.pdf.

[11] DESA SIDS Unit: 1 P5, 1 P4, 1 P2, 2 GS OL; OHRLLS SIDS Unit: 1 P4 and 1 P2.

[12] http://www.wcdrr.org/news?id=43138.

[13] See participation of OHRLLS at the Sendai Conference, March 2015, available from http://unohrlls.org/SIDS-High-Level-Sendai/.

such experiences could be emulated by putting in place a strategy in favour of SIDS as a group with special needs, addressing their vulnerability profiles.[14] A comprehensive review could explore how to implement such a system-wide strategy for SIDS.

24. The Inspectors were informed that the level of representation of the DESA/SIDS unit was considered too low, being submerged within the diversity of the overall structure of DESA and having to run on resources from different DESA departments. **The Inspectors are of the view that there should be a reassessment of the existing needs and capacity for delivery in relation to the SIDS mandate given to DESA, in order to ensure that capacity is commensurate with the tasks assigned and to avoid the dispersal of expertise and resources within the Secretariat.**

25. The Inspectors also met in New York with officials of the Climate Change Support Team of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG CCT). It provides support to SIDS, by addressing some specific needs of SIDS as part of climate change-related priorities. Reference was made to initiatives of the Secretary-General such as the SIDS Lighthouse initiative, introduced in the context of the Climate Summit convened by the Secretary-General in September 2014.[15] The Climate Change Support Team is not involved in IACG. EOSG CCT engages in interaction related to climate change directly with the countries concerned, either through its dialogue with AOSIS, its contribution to the Paris 2015 process (see para. 7 above), or through the resident coordinator system.

26. While there is collaboration on an ad hoc basis between EOSG CCT and OHRLLS or DESA, it is not structured along any established regular line of collaboration. Since this all takes place within the United Nations Secretariat, there might be some room for improving coherence and synergies.

In order to enhance the adequacy of, and cost-effectiveness in the use of, resources allocated to supporting sustainable development for SIDS, the Inspectors recommend that:

Recommendation 2

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review evaluates the current allocation of resources, as well as their effective and efficient use, at the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters, with a view to improving governance and effective coordination in the delivery of the mandates given by the General Assembly to DESA and OHRLLS to support SIDS.

United Nations entities away from Headquarters

27. Some United Nations entities away from Headquarters, such as the regional commissions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) have relevant roles in addressing SIDS-related issues in the context of their core mandates. UNCTAD was a pioneer within the United Nations system in dealing with SIDS and has recognized expertise in addressing key trade and development issues for SIDS. OHRLLS was launched after the third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries with resources redeployed from UNCTAD, which was, and still is, a key organization in relation to support for SIDS issues. The work of UNISDR, which is in charge of disaster risk reduction issues particularly relevant to SIDS, is also a cornerstone element of the integrated institutional support for SIDS from the United Nations system.

[14] DESA has developed expertise on Vulnerability-Resilience Profiles methodology as per paragraph 115 (c) of General Assembly resolution 69/15. See report of an expert group meeting organized by DESA in January 2015 at http://www.sidsnet.org/sites/default/files/resources/report_of_egm_on_vrp_26-28_jan.pdf.

[15] The SIDS Lighthouse Initiative is a framework for action aimed at a programmatic deployment of renewables in SIDS to enable transformation of their energy systems, taking into consideration all relevant aspects, ranging from policy and market frameworks through technology options to capacity-building. See www.un.org/climatechange/summit/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2014/09/ENERGY-SIDS-Lighthouse-Initiative.pdf.

28. The regional commissions are instrumental as interfaces with other regional institutions in the SIDS regions (the Pacific, the Caribbean and the Atlantic, and the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean and South China Seas)[16] from the United Nations system and other institutional policy and technical forums. The regional commissions were specifically identified in the Rio+20 outcome and in the SAMOA Pathway as playing a key role in supporting sustainable development.[17]

29. ESCAP has set up a Pacific Office in Fiji, for the purposes of bringing a dedicated and focused attention to challenges of SIDS in the Pacific subregion. ECLAC has set up a subregional office for the Caribbean in Port-of-Spain.[18] In preparing the present review, some SIDS representatives from the AIMS region indicated that the United Nations should consider setting up a coordinating mechanism for the AIMS region, the only one without any subregional representation. Currently, efforts are being made to expand institutional coordination in the AIMS region through discussions between the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and UNDP, inter alia.

30. Enhanced decentralization of decision-making and the provision of adequate resources for the regional commissions to increase their impact in their respective regions would enhance the effectiveness of field work in support of SIDS.

31. Entities away from Headquarters such as the regional commissions have some interaction with either DESA or OHRLLS. The review findings indicate that collaboration between them takes place mainly on an ad hoc basis, and that there are no regular platforms or mechanisms of exchange for coordinated planning to support SIDS, other than their participation as members of IACG, chaired by DESA.[19]

32. The enhancement of coordination between United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters and entities away from Headquarters should be addressed by the comprehensive review. The expertise developed by UNCTAD in providing advisory services to SIDS on trade and development issues, taking into account their specific vulnerabilities, should not be neglected. The work of UNCTAD for SIDS is built around the paramount development goal for SIDS of resilience-building, a goal none of them would be able to realize without external support; hence the role of the United Nations system. UNCTAD publications issued in September 2014, in the wake of the SAMOA Conference, confirm that UNCTAD is ahead of the curve in addressing the needs of SIDS.[20]

The Inspectors are of the view that implementation of the following recommendation would facilitate enhanced coordination and effectiveness in the activities of the Secretariat:

Recommendation 3

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review identifies all relevant entities of the United Nations Secretariat, such as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the regional commissions, contributing to support for the sustainable development of small island developing States, and that it proposes effective ways for the Secretariat to strengthen its programmatic coordination and integrated reporting.

[16] The Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Seas group of SIDS (the AIMS group), owing to its geographical dispersion, comes under three different regional commissions': the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

[17] See paras. 109 (a) on capacity-building and para. 122 on monitoring of SAMOA pathway implementation. With regard to cooperation among regional commissions, a review by JIU is planned for 2015.

[18] See http://www.cepal.org/portofspain/.

[19] See para. 46, below.

[20] See *The Oceans Economy: Opportunities and Challenges for Small Island Developing States* (UNCTAD/DITC/TED/2014/5) and *Addressing the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States more effectively* (UNCTAD/LDC/2014), September 2014.

C. United Nations system organizations

33. More than 20 organizations of the United Nations system responded to the survey conducted by JIU for the present review.[21] The results reveal varied, active support for SIDS, addressing the needs of SIDS within the purview of the organizations' mandates. Committed as they are to the implementation of system-wide overarching mandates such as those mentioned in paragraph 3 of the SAMOA Pathway, the majority of United Nations system organizations contribute at some level to fostering the sustainable development of SIDS. They do not necessarily have targeted programmes for SIDS but provide support through their sectoral mandates on education, energy, environment, industrial development and governance, inter alia.

34. The environmental conventions, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (the BRS Conventions), the Convention on Wetlands (the Ramsar Convention), the Convention on the Law of the Sea, inter alia, are also contributing to various degrees with their work addressing issues of high relevance to SIDS.

35. The responses of the organizations reflect the priority areas of the SAMOA Pathway to which they are contributing, and by what means.[22] Their work is carried out not only within the United Nations system but also in close cooperation in the field with regional institutions which play a key role for SIDS, such as the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), or the Commonwealth Secretariat. This is an aspect of support for SIDS that will need to be addressed in a comprehensive review on fostering implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, since the United Nations system cannot deliver all its potential in that respect unless it liaises and coordinates its work with SIDS regional political and technical forums and other institutions whose work relates to SIDS, through effective partnerships.

36. United Nations funds and programmes are champions of good practices of coordination in the field, in particular through the implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and through participation in the United Nations resident coordinator system. The present review does not allow for further details to be provided on the extensive work developed by funds, programmes, and specialized agencies. However JIU collected evidence of the strategic work being carried out by funds and programmes in support of SIDS. The recent "Blue Growth strategy" or the regional work developed by FAO in the framework of the Zero Hunger initiative Framework in Timor-Leste, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, are examples of relevant work in support of SIDS.[23]

37. Good practices were also identified in the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which provided strong support, advisory services and capacity-building to SIDS on key environmental issues particularly relevant to them. In the ministerial outcome document of the first session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of UNEP (June 2014), the international community was urged "to foster and encourage the development of genuine and durable partnerships to address environmental challenges faced by small island developing States". UNEP has been providing diverse and continued support to SIDS, in particular but not only, through the UNEP Caribbean SIDS Programme, was adopted by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean — to which UNEP is the secretariat — pursuant to Decision 4 of its fourteenth Meeting, held in 2003, as the main policy framework for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Caribbean SIDS.

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[21] See annex III for sample activities.

[22] See annex II.

[23] See "*Global Blue Growth Initiative and Small Island Developing States*" and "*Realizing Economic Opportunities in Agriculture to Promote Greater Food Security in Pacific Island Countries. 32nd Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. Mongolia*", Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2014. Available from www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/sids/PDF/Blue_Growth_policy_paper.pdf

38. The recent JIU report on Post-Rio+20 environmental governance within the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2014/4) revealed that SIDS were addressed by a significant number of organizations,[24] as reconfirmed by the results of the survey undertaken for the present review. The weakest link is the lack of system-wide effective coordination and overall monitoring of those organizations' activities in support of SIDS.

United Nations presence in New York

39. The United Nations system is represented in various forms in New York as (a) the home of intergovernmental processes and inter-agency forums; (b) the location of the headquarters of a significant number of United Nations entities, in particular United Nations funds and programmes.

40. In order to strengthen institutional support for SIDS and for the accelerated implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, ways must be identified to involve all stakeholders, both from organizations and from policy forums and processes. This section sets out the key institutional partners.

High-level Political Forum

41. The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)[25] replaced the Commission on Sustainable Development, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/203. The Forum is instrumental in finalizing the process towards the post-2015 development agenda and therefore has a critical role in ensuring that the concerns of SIDS are duly reflected in the sustainable development agenda to be adopted in September 2015.[26] DESA provides Secretariat support to HLPF sessions on SIDS.

42. The General Assembly, in paragraph 11 of its resolution 67/290, on the format and organizational aspects of HLPF, decided that the forum would devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, in particular the least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and African countries.

43. SIDS participate in the intergovernmental processes under the umbrella of AOSIS. Established in 1990, AOSIS is an intergovernmental coalition of 44 member States and observers. Member States are drawn from all oceans and regions of the world, and are small islands and low-lying coastal countries. They share similar environmental and development challenges, particularly in relation to climate change. AOSIS, currently chaired by Maldives, presents a unified negotiating voice for SIDS with the United Nations system,[27] and provides a platform for knowledge-sharing among SIDS countries.[28] AOSIS played an active role in the adoption of the SAMOA Pathway, calling for sustainable capacity-building in SIDS, as well as in the ongoing negotiations in the context of UNFCCC.[29]

Economic and Social Council and the Committee for Development Policy

44. The Economic and Social Council is explicitly referred to in paragraph 123 of the SAMOA Pathway and, together with HLPF, is requested to devote adequate time to the discussion of support for the sustainable development of SIDS.

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[24] See JIU/REP/2014/4 - A/69/763, annex I.

[25] See para. 123 of the SAMOA Pathway, addressing the role of HLPF in monitoring and accountability.

[26] See General Assembly resolution 69/217, para. 26.

[27] See http://aosis.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/2015.01.19-Statement-Stocktaking-General-FINAL.pdf.

[28] See http://aosis.org/.

[29] See http://unfccc.int/files/bodies/awg/application/pdf/adp2-8_opening_statement_aosis_8feb2015.pdf.

45. The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) is a subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council[30]. It provides expert input on development issues to the high-level segment of the Council. In 2010, the Committee produced a background paper on SIDS issues in which it raised essential questions related to the challenges involved in establishing a specific strategy for SIDS. Those issues in most cases remain unresolved.

46. SIDS[31] share certain characteristics but belong to various United Nations special categories. Only nine are least-developed countries (LDCs), while the rest are middle- or high-income countries. A specific policy for SIDS should cover the issues that are relevant to all of them, on the basis of their "common but differentiated vulnerabilities", such as those related to climate change, isolation, remoteness, import-dependency, transport, the digital divide, chemicals and waste management, small economic scale and social issues, inter alia.[32]

United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

47. The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination[33] (CEB) is the highest forum for inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system, and consists of 29 organizations.[34]

48. The Board was involved in the preparation of the SAMOA Pathway and underlined the commitment of all its members, under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, to contribute, within the context of their respective mandates, to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.[35]

49. The Board's work is supported by its secretariat and is developed through three mechanisms: the High-level Committee on Management (HLCM), the High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). The latter is a key facilitator for the implementation of operational activities at the regional and country levels, together with its secretariat, the United Nations Development Operations Coordination Office (UNDOCO).

50. UNDG brings together 32 United Nations funds, programmes, agencies, departments and offices. In close collaboration with UNDP and the resident coordinator system, and with all other funds, programmes and specialized agencies involved in development issues, UNDG and UNDOCO are essential partners in the field at the regional and country levels.

51. During their mission to New York, the Inspectors met with staff of UNDOCO, and noted with appreciation the role of the Office in providing support to SIDS at the regional and country levels. However, UNDOCO is not participating at IACG meetings on a regular basis, as it is not a member of the group. **The Inspectors therefore invite DESA to take the necessary steps for UNDG and UNDOCO to become regular members of IACG.**

Inter-Agency Consultative Group (IACG) for SIDS

52. IACG, chaired by the Division of Sustainable Development of DESA, is an informal hybrid coordinating mechanism.[36] It is composed of SIDS focal points from different United Nations entities, agencies, the regional

[30] See CDP Background Paper No. 10 ST/ESA/2010/CDP/10 June 2010 *Views and perspectives of the Committee for Development Policy on United Nations support for small island developing States*, by Philip Hein (2010).

[31] See annex IV.

[32] For a recent review of SIDS, see *Addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States more effectively* (UNCTAD/LDC/2014).

[33] See CEB high-level event on SIDS http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/general-assembly/main-committees/4th-committee/watch/ceb-high-level-event-the-un-system-partnering-for-the-people-of-sids/3762444460001#full-text.

[34] See www.unsceb.org/content/member-organizations.

[35] See http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/general-assembly/main-committees/4th-committee/watch/ceb-high-level-event-the-un-system-partnering-for-the-people-of-sids/3762444460001#full-text.

[36] Its creation originates from General Assembly resolution 58/213 with further references in resolution 59/311 and resolution A/RES/65/156.

commissions, and global and regional intergovernmental organizations involved in SIDS issues. It provides a unique forum with enlarged membership involving global and regional IGOs such as the Commonwealth Secretariat, PIFS, SPC, SPREP, CARICOM, OECS and IOC. These non-United Nations entities work very closely and sometimes directly with their SIDS constituencies by providing briefings and policy advice, technical and capacity-building support and meet focused information needs.

53. The IACG on SIDS is a forum for its members to exchange information, share experiences, collaborate on providing substantive input and participate in joint preparation to support SIDS at the national, regional, interregional and global levels in planning for events and processes in SIDS-related areas of common interest, such as the Rio+20 summit, the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC, the Meeting of the Parties to CBD, ocean-related events and the 2014 Samoa Conference/Third Conference for SIDS. The members represent a variety of organizations and departments, including the Global Environment Facility and the World Bank. International Financial Institutions (IFIs), of high relevance for the sustainable development SIDS, are also part of the IACG. They have a critical role to play, as recalled by paragraphs 28, 103 and 116 (b) of the Samoa pathway, in contributing to the sustainable development of SIDS which, in spite that the majority of them are of high-income level countries, share profiles of vulnerability that require specific tailor-made strategies.

54. The criteria for establishing IACG membership were not found in reviewing the information provided by DESA. The secretariat of only one multilateral environmental agreement, the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) is currently a member of IACG. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the secretariat for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), is also a member.[37] However, organizations concerned with climate change, land degradation and diversification, chemicals and waste management, among other critical issues for SIDS, are not represented in IACG.

55. Paragraph 124 of the SAMOA Pathway provides an opportunity to recalibrate the role and effectiveness of IACG. Indeed, DESA and OHRLLS have made progress in that direction. They set up a task force involving UNDP, UNFPA and other United Nations entities, to work together after the Samoa Conference to prepare a revised strategy paper, issued in December 2014, to galvanize the dynamics of IACG.

56. According to the information provided by DESA, the main activities currently being pursued through IACG are:

- Regular meetings via teleconference to coordinate joint planning for major events
- Coordination of the various activities carried out as part of the major events
- Promotion of efficient and coordinated use of resources for project implementation
- Collaboration on resource mobilization and exploring viable partnerships with donors and the wider international community
- Consultation among participating entities to advance mainstreaming and the promotion of synergies on SIDS issues in the programmes of the United Nations system
- Exchange of information on planned events, ongoing initiatives of relevance, data, etc. to be fed into the SIDSnet[38]
- Harmonization of the Mauritius Strategy Initiative regional plans of operationalization to ensure comprehensive oversight of SIDS priority programmes.

57. While the work of this group seems to be the most tangible and effective, it appears that it is not sufficiently visible and the group's working procedures and terms of reference are unclear to some stakeholders. **The Inspectors consider that the role of IACG should be assessed in the comprehensive review.**

[37] See JIU/REP/2012/2.

[38] The setting up of a Small Island Developing States Information Network resulted from the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS, held in Barbados in 1994, as a mean to "facilitate the exchange of experience among small island developing States" (A/CONF.167/9, page 33). See www.sidsnet.com.

58. As a result of the ongoing revamping of IACG, there have been increased efforts in planning the programme of work and in timely sharing of the agendas for future sessions. Items expected to be on the agenda in March and April 2015 are the forthcoming SIDS-dedicated segment of HLPF, SIDS data and statistic issues, SIDS and the post-2015 development agenda, financing for development, and the linkages of operational activities of IACG members to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

59. The Inspectors acknowledge the high value of the work undertaken by DESA within its scarce existing resources, which have not increased in proportion to the huge development of SIDS-related issues and in line with the urgent action required on particular matters to help them not only to develop sustainably but also to build up timely resilience to overcome the serious threats of climate change.

60. Building on the findings of previous JIU reports, in particular in the area of environmental governance and Rio+20,[39] **the Inspectors invite DESA and the members of IACG to consider lessons learned from the functioning of the Environment Management Group, chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme, in promoting information exchange, setting up management groups on thematic issues and developing good practices for inter-agency work.**[40]

In order to strengthen coordination and effectiveness, the Inspectors are of the view that:

Recommendation 4

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review assesses the role and functioning of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group on Small Island Developing States (IACG) and proposes concrete measures to strengthen its effectiveness as a coordinating forum, involving all the relevant institutional partners, from the United Nations system and non-United Nations entities, such as the international financial institutions, to foster the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and to facilitate its monitoring.

ECESA Plus

61. The Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (ECESA) was used as a coordinating mechanism in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The Secretary-General of the Rio+20 Conference[41] extended the membership of ECESA to include the heads of all United Nations system entities (including funds and programmes, specialized agencies, international financial institutions and the World Trade Organization) as well as the Rio Conventions' secretariats, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and IOM. The Committee thus became ECESA Plus. It now comprises 51 members and three observers and it maintains links with CEB and its subsidiary bodies, including the United Nations Development Group, and the Environment Management Group. It also includes research and training institutes such as the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)[42] and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)[43] which contribute with their specialized expertise and with capacity-building.[44]

62. In the course of 2013–2014, ECESA Plus, convened by DESA, served as the interface for the preparations of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, complementing the work of IACG on SIDS. ECESA Plus currently serves as the coordinating platform for the follow-up of both Rio+20 and the

[39] JIU/REP/2008/3 and JIU/REP/2014/4.

[40] See JIU/REP/2014/4, op. cit., paras. 100–104.

[41] In May 2010, the Secretary-General nominated the Under-Secretary-General of Economic and Social Affairs as the Secretary-General of the Conference.

[42] See UNRISD publication: "Social Policies in Samoa".

[43] UNITAR recently launched a free online training on SIDS and Climate Change, available from www.coursera.org/course/sids.

[44] The full list of memberships can be consulted at: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1442.

SAMOA Pathway, and is supported in its day-to-day operations by the DESA Division for Sustainable Development.

63. **The Inspectors note the involvement of ECESA Plus in providing support to SIDS, with OHRLLS and DESA in its membership, and consider that further clarification on its role, in accordance with paragraph 124 (a) of the SAMOA Pathway, should be addressed in a comprehensive review on SIDS in order to avoid potential overlap.**

Funds and Programmes with a presence in New York

64. The Inspectors met with officials from UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women during their visit to New York. They noted the important work being undertaken by all those agencies in areas of direct concern for SIDS, in close coordination with their field offices, with open channels of communication, feedback and interaction.

65. Since the present advisory review has been prepared under time and scope constraints, it will not report in depth on the detailed information provided by funds and programmes (and by specialized agencies).[45] The Inspectors wished, however, to point out that the interviews and the responses to the questionnaires indicated that the United Nations system, and, in particular, its funds and programmes, are definitely contributing with commitment and determination, within their existing resources, to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway priorities areas, within the context of their respective mandates.

66. UNDP, as the organization with the core mandate on development issues in the United Nations system, and with its near-global network of regional and country offices, translates policy processes in New York into action on the ground. UNDG is headed by the UNDP Administrator, paving the way for smooth interaction to organize the delivery in the field, through the United Nations resident coordinator system and UNDOCO.

67. UNDP informed the Inspectors that all SIDS are covered by either resident or accredited United Nations country teams operating under UNDAF through 19 multi-country and country offices on the ground in SIDS, with additional support from the United Nations Development Programme Pacific Centre and other country-level presences. UNDP further reported that it intends to scale up its delivery in SIDS in line with the SAMOA Pathway through those platforms, and that working within the UNDG framework would render implementation more effective.

68. The use of regional United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) is particularly relevant for SIDS, owing to their remoteness, size and difficulty of access. Working on a regional level increases efficiency in the use of resources and facilitates the addressing of issues of common concern in the regional/subregional groups. Working with the local authorities contributes to creating synergies among different ministries with a view to building a mutually supportive agenda covering interrelated areas (e.g. fisheries, agriculture, environment, etc.). Capacity-building on institutional strengthening would support better performance in addressing SIDS-specific challenges. **In the view of the Inspectors, a comprehensive review should also focus on field-level operations and United Nations coordination through the resident coordinator system, balancing streamlined guidance and oversight from Headquarters with a robust bottom-up approach, incorporating information from the valuable experience gained and challenges faced at the national and regional levels.**

69. Interviews with UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women confirmed the relevance of the work in the field and the need to increase its visibility in policy and inter-governmental/inter-agency processes at Headquarters. Population, youth, children and gender issues are some of the SAMOA Pathway priorities. UNICEF gave positive feedback on the functioning of IACG on SIDS as a platform for inter-agency coordination and information exchange, and highlighted its important role in the run-up to the Samoa Conference. Collaboration has been further strengthened since the conference, as part of the ongoing reform process IACG.

[45] The extensive qualitative information provided can be used in the future for any follow-up review on the same matter. See annex II.

70. UNFPA reported that in November 2014 it met with representatives of Samoa and reiterated its full support for the implementation of the outcome document. It also referred to the cooperation at regional level among UNFPA subregional offices with regard to delivery of multi-country programmes, as part of the activities of UNDG for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC) and ECLAC.[46] UNFPA indicated its support for building on the momentum of the outcome of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session held in September 2014 to discuss the progress on and achievement of the goals of the landmark International Conference on Population and Development.

71. The Inspectors also met with the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), which is actively involved in supporting activities for SIDS, such as reporting on innovative partnerships in South-South cooperation on land management, and addressing project-related activities on disaster-risk reduction and climate change in SIDS. Their activities are organized around partnership and cooperation with other United Nations entities, such as UNDP (e.g. Pacific Centre in Fiji), OHRLLS and DESA, and regional organizations, with the support of SIDS governments, as well as some of their development and private sector partners, such as the Pacific Island Private Sector Organization (PIPSO) and the Caribbean Centre for Competitiveness, inter alia.

Other relevant organizations of the United Nations system

72. The country presence of funds, programmes, specialized agencies and some regional centres of environmental conventions in small island developing States is a key factor in the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway. Joint delivery through UNDAFs and the resident coordinator system, involving organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) or the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) should be strengthened.

73. UNODC implements partnerships with UNDP, primarily in the Pacific region, as well as in the Caribbean in partnerships with CARICOM and the World Bank. A global UNDP-UNODC event on anticorruption reform in SIDS is also planned for 2015. ICAO has developed the concept of an Essential Service and Tourism Development Route (ESTDR) scheme in cooperation with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), aiming at ensuring lifeline provision of air services for remote or peripheral destinations of the world irrespective of the profitability of individual operations and stimulating inward tourism and investment. ESTDR is particularly relevant for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in its response to the survey, also referred to the need to focus on regional, more than country-based, support for SIDS, owing to their specificities, which hamper delivery at the country level for very small States.

74. With regard to the SIDS, membership of the executive boards of funds and programmes, or in the bureaus of the conferences and meetings of the parties to environmental conventions should be encouraged as a means to ensure better consideration of the needs of SIDS.[47]

75. Special reference should be made to the role of the secretariats of environmental conventions such as the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, and its support in addressing acute waste management issues, which are highly relevant to SIDS. Their regional centres provide support to several countries in the Pacific region. The CBD and UNCCD secretariats contribute to biodiversity and land management issues, critical areas for building resilience and reducing vulnerability. A comprehensive review

[46] An inter-agency task force has been set up under UNDG LAC to map the activities in the Caribbean to put it in context of the Samoa Pathway and to prepare a strategic plan of action for the Caribbean.

[47] UNDP mentioned that, since 1994, when BPOA was adopted, 11 SIDS have served on the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board, thus ensuring that the organizations remain responsive to the evolving needs of those States.

should not neglect the role of those Conventions as part of the overall architecture for support to SIDS from the United Nations system.

76. Recalling paragraph 70, 71 and 109 of the SAMOA Pathway, **the Inspectors are of the view that the United Nations system should strengthen its support to SIDS, through improved collaboration with the secretariats of the Rio Conventions and other environmental conventions such as UNCLOS, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Minamata Convention on Mercury, inter alia, through capacity-building and provision of advisory services to SIDS to promote the ratification of the environmental conventions and their implementation at national level.**

III. OTHER FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Monitoring and accountability framework for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway

77. The Inspectors noted a perception among stakeholders of weak institutional support as provided by United Nations Headquarters. Measures for improvement should focus on reorganizing existing resources, assessing the current level of resources and its commensurability with mandates, and the sharing of resources across the system to promote cross-fertilization, coherence and effectiveness in the use of existing resources.

78. Reporting on the system-wide contribution to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway should be conducted through an effective monitoring and accountability framework, including through the use of the current follow-up matrix on the implementation of the Pathway, which was set up by DESA and managed by ECESA Plus, to follow up on the roles and contributions of United Nations organizations in addressing the priority areas of the Pathway. A results-based-management monitoring framework would ensure regular monitoring and updated reporting on the status of its implementation.

In order to increase system-wide coherence and accountability in the provision of United Nations system institutional support to SIDS, the Inspectors recommend that:

Recommendation 5

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review analyses the institutional set-up in place in accordance with paragraphs 122 to 124 of the SAMOA Pathway and the coordination process aimed at monitoring and reporting on its effective implementation, with a view to preventing overlap and fostering synergies across the United Nations system.

B. Communication and information sharing between the United Nations Secretariat and representatives of Member States

79. The Inspectors were informed of cases of apparent duplication between the Secretariat — DESA and OHRLLS — in their outreach and interaction with some representatives of Member States, with reference to a recent request, which reached the permanent missions of the Member States through different channels, covering closely related issues.

80. DESA was collecting information to develop recommendations for a partnership framework, in accordance with paragraph 101 of the SAMOA Pathway, while OHRLLS was following up on consultations it had had in late 2014 with Friends of SIDS Private, an informal grouping of likeminded Member States, which had requested OHRLLS to put together draft terms of reference related to the development of a SIDS Global Business Network, a key outcome of the Private Sector Partnership Forum.[48]

81. Both units were acting in accordance with their respective mandates. However, better coordination within the Secretariat would have led to more clarity as to the purpose, and the two Units could have coordinated their request to cover all areas of interest on partnerships, thus reducing the burden of work.

82. The Inspectors are of the view that all information on SIDS issues could be collected through a single integrated line of communication from the United Nations Secretariat with Member States, United Nations system organizations and other relevant stakeholders. A common information database to support the delivery of various tasks assigned to different parts of the Secretariat would facilitate coordination and synergies. The work

[48] Pre-Conference event jointly organized by OHRLLS with the Government of Samoa and the Samoa Chamber of Commerce during the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in 2014.

done by DESA and OHRLLS could be available on the same platform, including input from the rest of the United Nations system. This platform would include the matrix for the follow-up on the SAMOA Pathway.[49]

83. The interviews also revealed that the co-existing mandates on SIDS to be covered by DESA and OHRLLS give rise to difficulties for the Member States with regard to finding specific information to respond to their questions. **In the view of the Inspectors, the Secretariat should improve its channels of communication and better coordinate its requests to Member States.** Efforts should be made to clarify responsibilities. In the meantime, the two Units should strengthen their coordination so that issues falling under both mandates are addressed jointly through ex-ante coordination.

84. The Inspectors were informed that some forms of regular contact with Member States, in particular with AOSIS and with development partners, have been discontinued. Since AOSIS is the negotiation forum representing the interests of SIDS, regular meetings between the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters and permanent representatives, would constitute a good practice for communication and information exchange.[50]

In order to improve coordination and communication and enhance transparency in work related to supporting SIDS priorities, the Inspectors recommend that:

Recommendation 6

The General Assembly should ensure that the comprehensive review addresses institutional and managerial mechanisms for strengthening coordination between DESA and OHRLLS in performing the tasks related to their respective mandates on support to SIDS, in order to avoid overlap and enhance the effectiveness of their work, and to increase transparency in their communication with Member States.

C. Coordination between the United Nations Secretariat at Headquarters and other entities of the United Nations system

85. The responses to the questionnaires by organizations of the United Nations system and the secretariats of environmental conventions relevant to SIDS revealed weak coordination with United Nations Headquarters.

86. This is not the case for the funds and programmes with strong representation in the field. During the Inspectors' mission in New York, they organized videoconferences with their Pacific and Caribbean regional offices which provided insightful information to the Inspectors. Stakeholders recognize the pivotal role of funds and programmes in providing support for SIDS on the ground, in particular through the United Nations resident coordinator system, ensuring coherence in implementation at the regional and country levels. A comprehensive review could assess the challenges faced by those entities active in SIDS which ultimately have the burden of ensuring the successful and effective implementation of the SAMOA Pathway.

87. The Inspectors noted that the representatives of Member States were lacking information on the existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms for SIDS organized by the Secretariat, in particular on the work of IACG, and expressed their desire to be better informed on its work and outcomes.

88. Reporting on the progress made in implementing BPOA and MSI, and now the SAMOA Pathway, has been led by DESA, under its reporting mandate and through consultation with ECESA Plus, IACG and member States. Reporting should not be limited only to SIDS processes but should also link to the broader issue of United

[49] See www.sids2014.org/unmatrix. Current reporting through the matrix is populated by the organizations themselves. As reported during the interviews, the current contents of the matrix do not fully reflect the current status of implementation. Reporting is not regular; it is voluntary and non-systematic.

[50] The involvement of funds and programmes, in particular those directly concerned with implementation of capacity-building for SIDS, would certainly add value to these regular meetings.

Nations system support for SIDS and HLPF reviews, and address the question of how the needs of SIDS will be mainstreamed in the post-2015 development agenda and SDGs review, and other relevant global processes in the future.

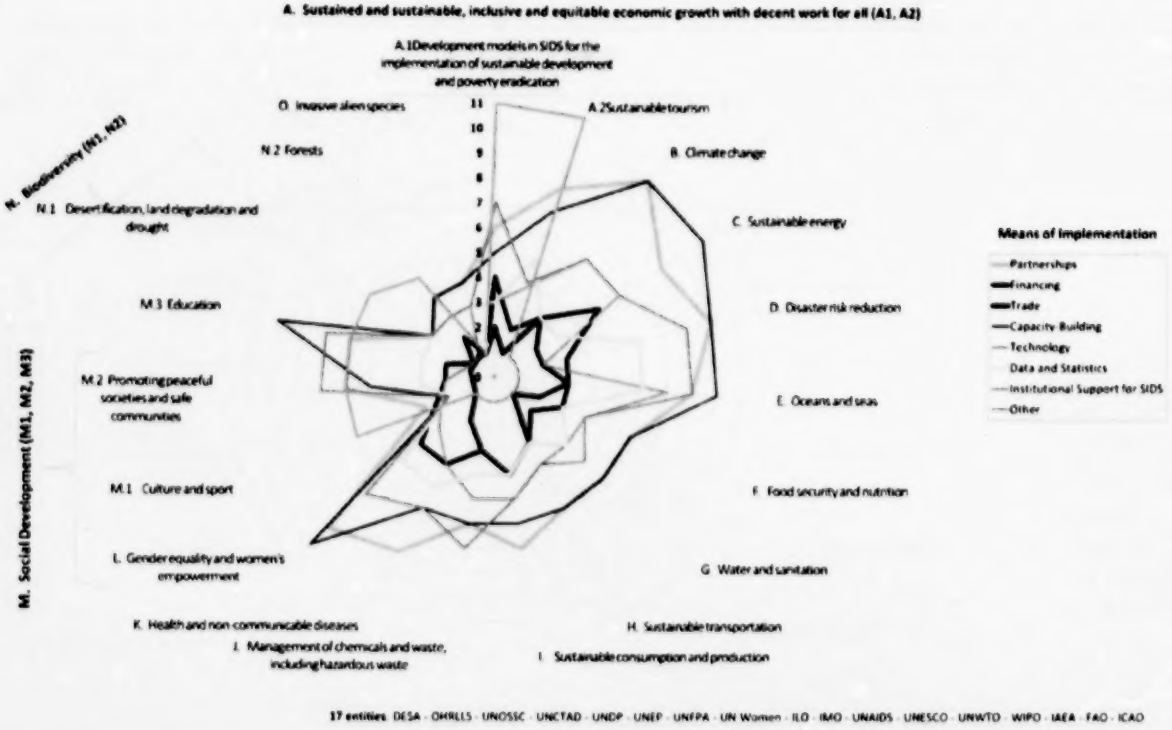
89. Strategic thinking to plan and report on United Nations institutional support for the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway under a single umbrella, in a coordinated manner, would contribute to better use of resources, greater satisfaction on the part of the beneficiaries and their development partners, and a reduced burden for the SIDS Units of DESA and OHRLLS.

90. Last but not least, the involvement of the secretariats of the Rio Conventions (e.g. UNFCCC) and other relevant environmental conventions through inter-agency mechanisms, such as ECESA Plus and IACG, would facilitate consideration of highly relevant issues for SIDS, such as climate change, oceans, biodiversity, chemicals and waste management. This should be done with the support of UNDP, UNDG and UNDOCO, the regional commissions, and through dissemination of strategic guidance for joint programming and implementation in the field by the United Nations country teams. The involvement of non-resident agencies with long-standing expertise on SIDS, such as UNCTAD, should be part of this system-wide effort to streamline the SAMOA Pathway to ensure sustainable development of SIDS.

Annex I: Mandates of DESA and OHRLLS on SIDS

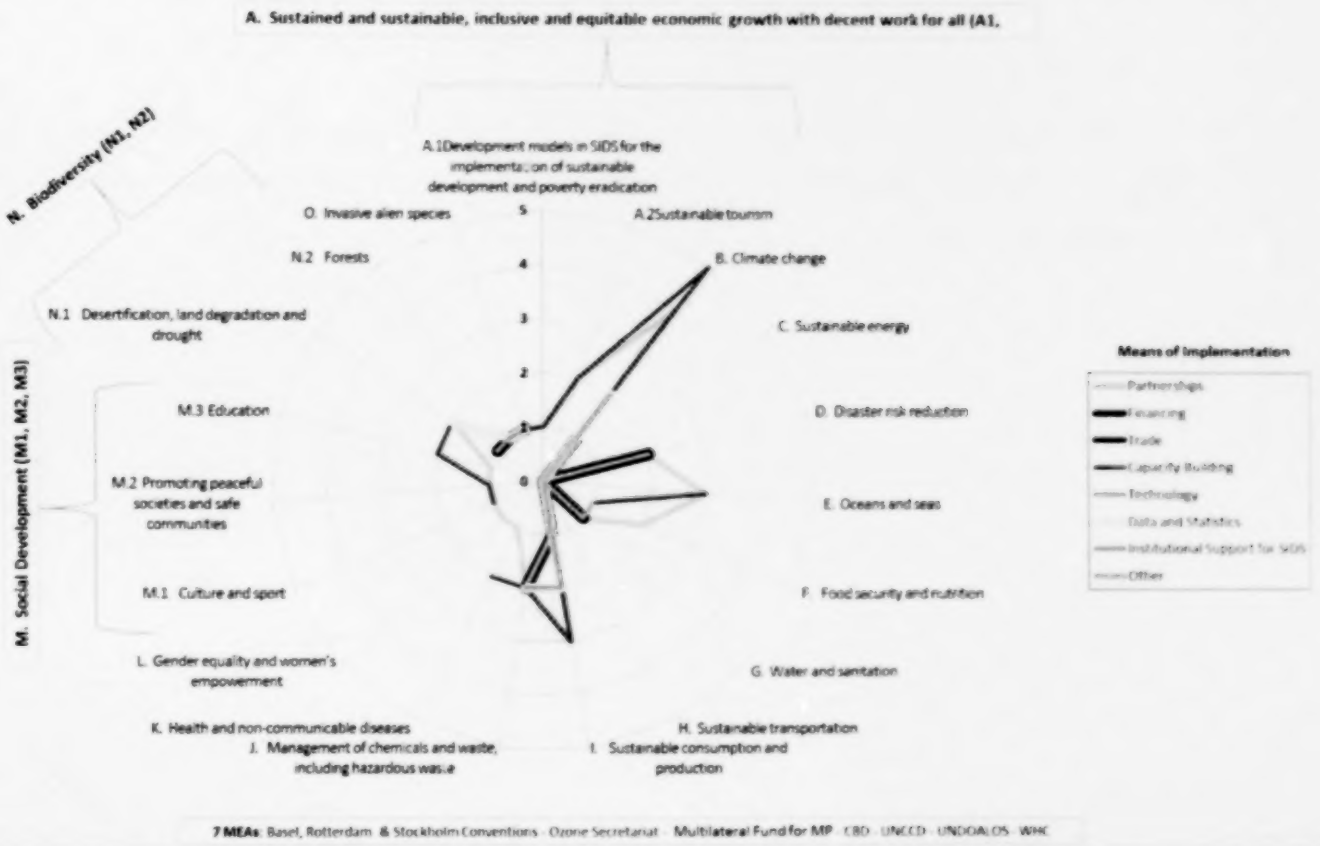
Mandate	DESA	OHRLLS
To undertake a full range of functions in **support** of the system-wide implementation and review of **Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA), and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI)**	General Assembly resolutions 49/122, 50/116, 51/183, 57/262, 59/311, 60/194, 62/191, 63/213, 64/199, and 65/156	General Assembly resolutions 57/262, 63/213, and 64/199
To support, as appropriate, the coordinated follow up of the implementation of BPOA		General Assembly resolution 56/227 (para. 1) assigning functions set out in the Secretary General's report (A/56/645, para. 17)
United Nations system-wide coordination and cooperation with other relevant multilateral organizations and dissemination of information on activities in support of SIDS and BPOA to ensure effective implementation and monitoring (BPOA, MSI)	General Assembly resolutions 56/198, 58/213, and 59/229	General Assembly resolution 69/15
Advocacy and mobilization of international support and resources To provide support to group consultations of SIDS		General Assembly resolutions 56/227 (para. 1) assigning functions set out in the Secretary General's report (A/56/645, para. 17) and 69/15
Provision of assistance, technical cooperation services and support to SIDS	General Assembly resolutions 64/199 and 69/15	

Annex II A - Contribution of the JIU participating organizations to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by means of implementation


A. Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all (A1, A2)
A.1Development models in SIDS for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication
A.2Sustainable tourism
B. Climate change
C. Sustainable energy
D. Disaster risk reduction
E. Oceans and seas
F. Food security and nutrition
G. Water and sanitation
H. Sustainable transportation
I. Sustainable consumption and production
J. Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste
K. Health and non-communicable diseases
L. Gender equality and women's empowerment
M. Social Development (M1, M2, M3)
M.1 Culture and sport
M.2 Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities
M.3 Education
N. Biodiversity (N1, N2)
N.1 Desertification, land degradation and drought
N.2 Forests
O. Invasive alien species
11
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
Means of Implementation
Partnerships
Financing
Trade
Capacity Building
Technology
Data and Statistics
Institutional Support for SIDS
Other
17 entities DESA - OHRLLS - UNOSSC - UNCTAD - UNDP - UNEP - UNFPA - UN Women - ILO - IMO - UNAIDS - UNESCO - UNWTO - WIPO - IAEA - FAO - ICAO

Note: The scale represents the number of organizations involved in each area, by means of implementation. Priority areas are in accordance with GA Resolution 69/15.
Source: JIU elaboration based on the data from the survey of March 2015. While UNODC participated to the survey, it did not provide data for this question.

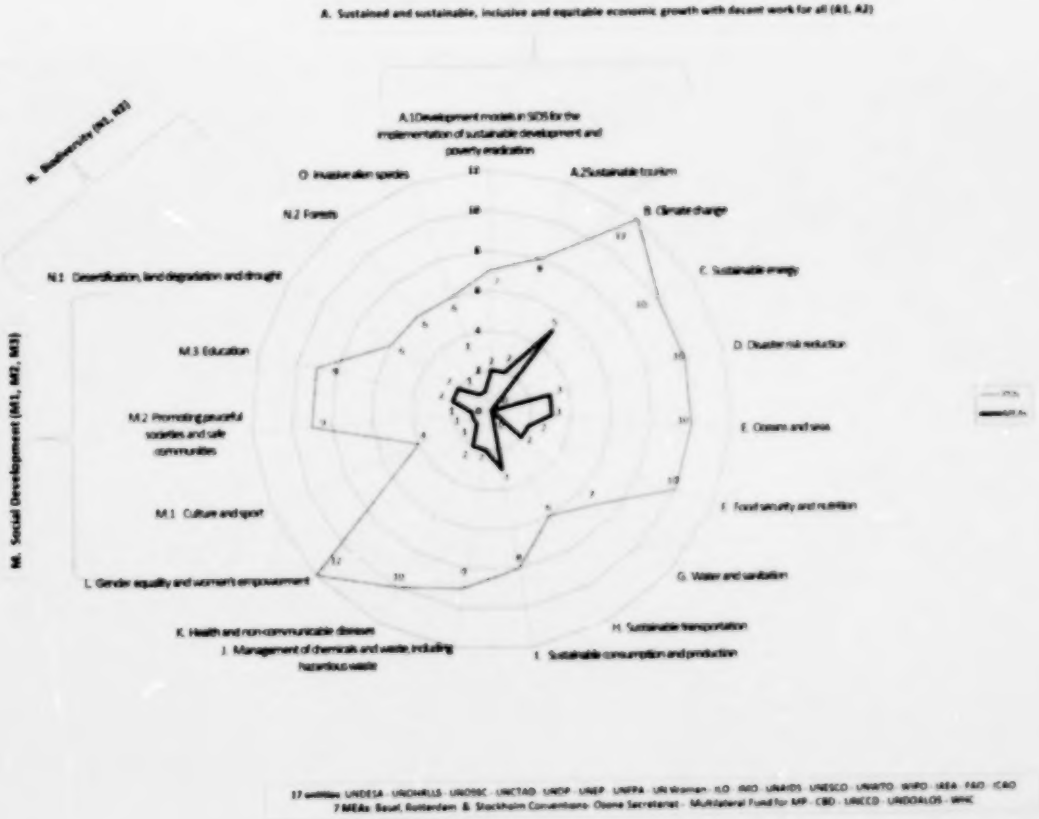
Annex II B - Contribution of MEAs to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by means of implementation


A. Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all (A1,
A.1Development models in SIDS for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication
A.2Sustainable tourism
B. Climate change
C. Sustainable energy
D. Disaster risk reduction
E. Oceans and seas
F. Food security and nutrition
G. Water and sanitation
H. Sustainable transportation
I. Sustainable consumption and production
J. Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste
K. Health and non-communicable diseases
L. Gender equality and women's empowerment
M. Social Development (M1, M2, M3)
M.1 Culture and sport
M.2 Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities
M.3 Education
N. Biodiversity (N1, N2)
N.1 Desertification, land degradation and drought
N.2 Forests
O. Invasive alien species
5
4
3
2
1
0
Means of Implementation
Partnerships
Financing
Trade
Capacity Building
Technology
Data and Statistics
Institutional Support for SIDS
Other
7 MEAs: Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm Conventions - Ozone Secretariat - Multilateral Fund for MP - CBD - UNCCD - UNDOALOS - WHC

Note: The scale represents the number of organizations involved in each area, by means of implementation. Some data lines (e.g. Finance and Technology) are shown in multiple colours as they coincide. Priority areas are in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 69/15.

Source: JIU, based on the data from its survey of March 2015. While UNFCCC participated to the survey, it did not provide data for this question.

Annex II C - Contribution of the JIU participating organizations and MEAs to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway (aggregated by all means of implementation)

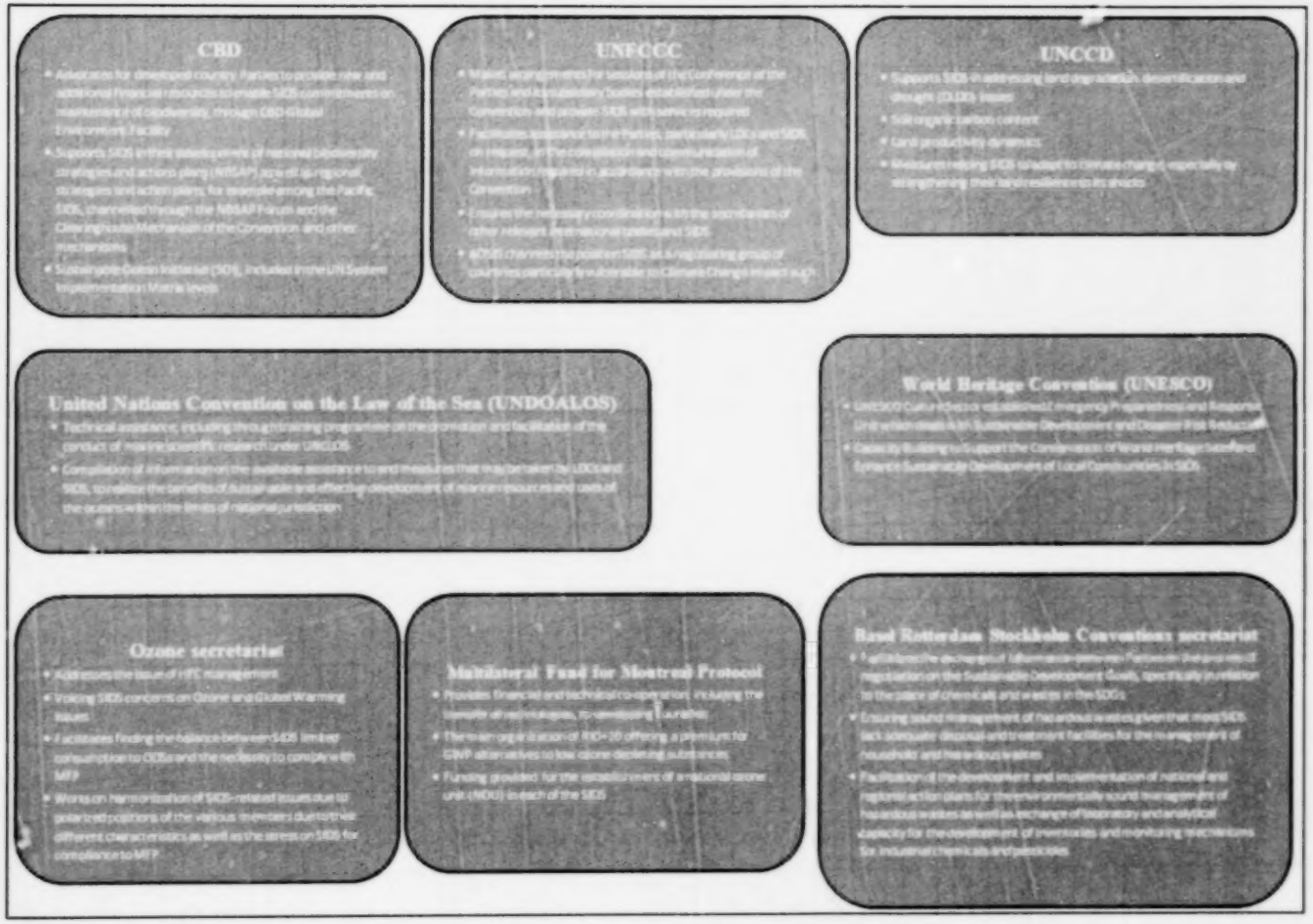

A. Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all (A1, A2)
A.1Development models in SIDS for the implementation of sustainable development and poverty eradication
A.2Sustainable tourism
B. Climate change
C. Sustainable energy
D. Disaster risk reduction
E. Oceans and seas
F. Food security and nutrition
G. Water and sanitation
H. Sustainable transportation
I. Sustainable consumption and production
J. Management of chemicals and waste, including hazardous waste
K. Health and non-communicable diseases
L. Gender equality and women's empowerment
M. Social Development (M1, M2, M3)
M.1 Culture and sport
M.2 Promoting peaceful societies and safe communities
M.3 Education
N.1 Desertification, land degradation and drought
N.2 Forests
O. Invasive alien species
N. Biodiversity (N1, N2)

17 entities UNDESA · UNOHRLLS · UNOSSC · UNCTAD · UNDP · UNEP · UNFPA · UN Women · ILO · IMO · UNAIDS · UNESCO · UNWTO · WHO · IAEA · FAO · ICAO
7 MEAs Basel, Rotterdam & Stockholm Conventions· Ozone Secretariat · Multilateral Fund for MP · CBD · UNCCD · UNDOALOS · WHC

Note: The scale represents the number of organizations involved in each area, considering all means of implementation together. Priority areas are in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 69/15.
Source: JIU, based on the data from its survey as of March 2015. While UNODC and UNFCCC participated to the survey, they did not provide data for this question.

Annex III A - Selected samples of activities to support SIDS and the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by the United Nations system

Annex III B - Selected samples of activities to support SIDS and the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway by secretariats of MEAs



Annex IV - SIDS groups according to United Nations organizations and international forums

SIDS Groupings	United Nations Secretariat			Regional Commissions				UN Special Agency	Non United Nations System					
	DESA	OHRLLS	UNCTAD	ECLAC	ESCWA	ESCAP	ECA	UNESCO	ACSAD	CAPECOM	CARIFORUM	ACP	IOC	IW
AIMS (Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea)														
Bahrain	✗	✓	✗	-	✓	-	-	✓	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cabo Verde	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
Comoros*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-
Guinea Bissau*	✓	✓	✗	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
Madagascar	✗	✗	✗	-	-	-	-	✗	-	-	-	-	✓	-
Maldives	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritius	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-
São Tomé and Príncipe*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	-
Seychelles	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	✓	-
Singapore	✓	✓	✗	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	-	-	-
SUB TOTAL	**8**	**9**	**6**	-	**1**	**2**	**6**	**9**	**8**	-	-	**6**	**4**	-
THE CARIBBEAN and Connected Seas														
Anguilla	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	O	O	-	-	-
Antigua and Barbuda	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Aruba	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	-	O	-	-	-
Bahamas	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Barbados	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Belize	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Bermuda	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	O	-	-	-	-
British Virgin Islands	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	O	O	-	-	-
Cayman Islands	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	O	O	-	-	-
Cuba	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-
Curaçao	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dominica	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Dominican Republic	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-
French Guyana	✗	✗	✗	-	-	-	-	✗	-	-	O	-	-	-
Grenada	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Guadeloupe	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	-	O	-	-	-
Guyana	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Haiti*	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Jamaica	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Martinique	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	-	O	-	-	-
Montserrat	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	✓	O	-	-	-
Netherlands Antilles	✗	✗	✗	-	-	-	-	✗	O	-	O	-	-	-
Sint Marteen	✗	✗	✗	A	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerto Rico	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	O	-	-	-	-	-
Saint Kitts and Nevis	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Saint Lucia	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Suriname	✓	✓	✗	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Trinidad and Tobago	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Turks and Caicos Islands	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	-	O	O	-	-	-
U.S. Virgin Islands	✗	A	✗	A	-	-	-	✗	O	-	-	-	-	-
SUB TOTAL	**16**	**16**	**10**	**16**	-	-	-	**16**	**16**	**15**	**16**	**16**	-	-
THE PACIFIC														
American Samoa	✗	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	O	-	-	-	-	SO
Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas	✗	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	-	-	-	-	-	SO
Cook Islands	✓	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Fiji	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
French Polynesia	✗	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	-	-	-	-	-	A
Guam	✗	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	O	-	-	-	-	SO
Kiribati*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Marshall Islands	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Federal State of Micronesia	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Nauru	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
New Caledonia	✗	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✗	-	-	-	-	-	A
Niue	✓	A	✗	-	-	A	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Palau	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Papua New Guinea	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Samoa	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Solomon Islands*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Timor Leste*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	SO
Tokelau	✗	✗	✗	-	-	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	A
Tonga	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Tuvalu*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Vanuatu*	✓	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓	✓	-	-	✓	-	✓
Wallis and Futuna	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	SO
SUB TOTAL:	**15**	**13**	**13**	-	-	**13**	-	**15**	**15**	-	-	**15**	-	**14**
Members (Associate Members)	**39**	**38 (19)**	**29**	**16 (13)**	**1**	**15 (7)**	**6**	**40 (7)**	**38**	**15**	**16**	**37**	**4**	**14 (3)**

* Least Developed Country (LDC).

Note:
- (A) indicates Associate Member, (O) indicates Observer, and (SO) indicates Special Observer

Sources:
United Nations System:
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA): www.sidsnet.org/country-profiles
UN-OHRLLS: http://unohrlls.org/about-sids/country-profiles/
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD): unctad.org/en/pages/aldc/Small%20Island%20Developing%20States/UNCTAD%C2%B4s-unofficial-list-of-SIDS.aspx
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/priority-areas/sids/about-unesco-and-sids/sids-list/

Regional commissions:
United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC): http://www.cepal.org/en/estados-miembros
United Nations Economic Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA): http://www.escwa.un.org/about/members_8_2012.pdf
United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP): www.unescap.org/about/member-states
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA): www.uneca.org/pages/member-states

Non-United Nations:
AOSIS: http://aosis.org/about/members/
Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM): www.caricom.org/jsp/community/member_states.jsp?menu=community
Forum of the Caribbean Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States (CARIFORUM): www.caricom.org/jsp/community_organs/cariforum/cariforum_main_page.jsp?menu=cob
African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP): www.acp.int/node/7
Indian Ocean Commission (IOC): http://commissionoceanindien.org/membres/
Pacific Islands Forum (PIF): www.forumsec.org/pages.cfm/about-us/?printerfriendly=true

United Nations A/69/922

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 June 2015

Original: English

Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 74 (a)
Oceans and the law of the sea

Development of an international legally-binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/69/L.65*

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1 (a), (b) and (c) of draft resolution A/69/L.65, the General Assembly would decide:

(a) To establish, prior to holding an intergovernmental conference, a preparatory committee, open to all States Members of the United Nations, members of specialized agencies and parties to the Convention, with others invited as observers in accordance with past practice of the United Nations, to make substantive recommendations to the General Assembly on the elements of a draft text of an international legally-binding instrument under the Convention, taking into account the various reports of the Co-Chairs on the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, and decide that the preparatory committee will start its work in 2016 and, by the end of 2017, report to the Assembly on its progress;

(b) That the preparatory committee shall meet for no less than two sessions of 10 working days duration each in 2016 as well as in 2017 with full conference services, with the recognition that, with respect to documentation, any documents of the preparatory committee other than the agenda, the programme of work and the report of the preparatory committee shall be considered informal working documents;

(c) To request the Secretary-General to convene sessions of the preparatory committee in 2016 from 28 March to 8 April and from 29 August to 12 September.

* Relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

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II. Relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016-2017 and to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017

2. The requested activities referred to in the draft resolution relate to programme 1 of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2016-2017 and section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017.

III. Activities by which the proposed requests would be implemented

3. It is envisaged that the Preparatory Committee would hold two sessions of 20 meetings each in New York, totalling 40 meetings, in each of the years 2016 and 2017, with interpretation in all six languages, consisting of one meeting in the morning and one in the afternoon. In 2016, the dates would be for 10 days from 28 March to 8 April 2016, and for 10 days from 29 August to 12 September 2016. Dates for 2017 will be determined in consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

4. It has been confirmed that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction will not be re-mandated starting from 2016. The new Preparatory Committee is closely related to the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group, and therefore the entitlement to 10 meetings per year of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group would be used to cover 10 meetings per year of the Preparatory Committee.

5. Accordingly, 30 meetings with interpretation in all six languages will constitute an addition to the meetings workload for the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in each of the years 2016 and 2017. That would entail additional requirements in the amount of $670,000 for meeting services in the biennium 2016-2017.

IV. Financial implications of the proposals

6. Additional conference-servicing requirements of $670,000 for the biennium 2016-2017 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, would be required under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 to implement the additional workload.

V. Potential for absorption during the biennium 2016-2017

7. No provisions have been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 for the implementation of the activities requested under operative paragraphs 1 (a), (b) and (c) of the draft resolution. At the current stage, it is not possible to identify activities within the section of the proposed programme

budget for the biennium 2016-2017 that could be terminated, deferred, curtailed or modified during the biennium. It is therefore necessary that the additional non-recurrent resources in the amount of $670,000 be provided through an additional appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017.

VI. Contingency fund

8. It may be recalled that, under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 and 42/211, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures were proposed that exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or the modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

VII. Conclusion and action required of the General Assembly

9. **Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/69/L.65, additional resources in the amount of $670,000 would arise under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017. The amount of $670,000 would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require an additional appropriation for the biennium 2016-2017 to be approved by the General Assembly.**

10. **The attention of the General Assembly is drawn to the present statement of programme budget implications. If the General Assembly were to adopt the draft resolution at its sixty-ninth session, the present statement of programme budget implications would be reissued as a revised estimate for the seventieth session. The Fifth Committee will examine during the main part of the seventieth session of the Assembly both the revised estimate arising from the draft resolution and the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon.**

United Nations A/69/923–S/2015/403

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
4 June 2015
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Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda items 68 (c) and 107

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 2 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Government of Jordan rejects the spurious allegations set out in the identical letters dated 25 May 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (A/69/912-S/2015/371). Jordan once again calls on the Syrian regime to focus on safeguarding the lives of its people and to support efforts aimed at achieving a political solution to the crisis in Syria. The Syrian regime should also respect the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and cooperate with the United Nations and its competent agencies in order to address the tragic humanitarian conditions in Syria, instead of levelling accusations at Jordan, which continues to stand resolutely with the Syrian people. Since the crisis began, Jordan has been hosting 1.5 million Syrian refugees, notwithstanding its limited capacities and resources, and despite having to contend with the repercussions of many of the conflicts in the region. Jordan has also been constantly striving to find a political solution to the crisis in Syria that preserves the country's territorial integrity, and to alleviate the suffering that the Syrian people have endured over the past years.

Jordan rejects the false claims made regarding the causes of the spread of terrorism in Syria and reiterates its unwavering commitment to counter the scourge of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of who is responsible for it, because terrorism is contrary to all religious and moral precepts and values. Jordanian institutions will continue to follow an integrated approach in responding to terrorism, including by scaling up their efforts and constantly coordinating and consulting with various regional and international stakeholders in order to consolidate stability and security in the region. The Syrian regime is exploiting a variety of United Nations platforms to promote its misleading and fantastical

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narrative regarding the reasons for the spread of terrorism in Syria. Such conduct is contrary to the noble purposes and principles on which the Organization was founded. Should the Syrian regime persist in that conduct and continue its barbaric attacks against its own people, in all its components, then terrorism will undoubtedly intensify in Syria, bearing in mind that it was the regime's practices that gave rise to terrorism in the first place. We therefore reiterate that the international community must deal firmly with the Syrian regime in order to ensure compliance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 2139 (2014), 2165 (2014), 2191 (2014) and 2199 (2015); the resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 69/189; and international humanitarian law and human rights principles.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 68 (c) and 107, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dina **Kawar**
Permanent Representative

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United Nations A/69/924–S/2015/408

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
5 June 2015

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 103
Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction

Security Council
Seventieth year

Identical letters dated 4 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the text of a statement issued on 3 June 2015 by a spokesperson for the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with regard to the dangerous schemes of biological warfare prepared by the United States of America against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (see annex).

As has been recently disclosed, a military facility in Dugway, Utah, under the control of the Department of Defence of the United States, secretly shipped deadly live anthrax germs to the United States military bases in south Korea and other countries.

This fact clearly proves that the United States not only possesses deadly weapons of mass destruction, which are totally banned under the Biological Weapons Convention, but also is attempting to use them in actual warfare against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the Korean peninsula.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea condemns in the strongest terms the United States for its genocidal acts against humanity and strongly requests that the Security Council take up the issue of the shipment of anthrax germs in order to thoroughly investigate the biological warfare schemes of the United States.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as soon as possible as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 103, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the identical letters dated 4 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement issued on 3 June 2015 by a spokesperson for the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Pyongyang, 3 June — A spokesperson for the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea released a statement today in connection with the full disclosure of the sinister design of the United States imperialists to plunge the Korean nation into a horrible disaster of germ warfare.

The recent disclosure of the introduction of anthrax germs into south Korea by the United States proves that the United States is a group of gangsters threatening human existence, a group of barbarians who stoop to any infamy to turn south Korea into a hell and a ground for testing biochemical weapons and a group of the cruellest murderers defying even international law, the statement said.

In view of the prevailing situation, the statement clarified the following principled stand of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea:

1. The United States has to admit the thrice-cursed crime that it has committed against the Korean nation and the world and withdraw from south Korea immediately, taking with it all the nuclear war means and germ weapons that it has hidden in different parts of south Korea, including its air force base in Osan.

The southern half of Korea is not a land where the United States murderers can reign, hatching a plot to ignite a dangerous nuclear war and germ warfare to exterminate the Korean nation by resorting to whatever means to put it into practice.

2. South Koreans from all walks of life should turn out in a nationwide action to foil the United States imperialists' moves towards nuclear war and germ warfare.

They should defend the land and their destiny by the concerted efforts of the Korean nation by countering sophism made by the United States, a man-killing demon without equal, with a fierce anti-United States struggle and by dealing sledgehammer blows to Park Geun-Hye, who kowtows to the United States.

3. The world should brand the scheme of the United States, which rules out even the preparations for germ warfare, which is strictly banned internationally, as the gravest challenge to peace and a hideous crime aimed at genocide, and mercilessly punish it.

The International Criminal Court has to bring the United States President, the United States Secretary of Defence and the commander of the United States imperialist aggressor forces in south Korea, who are the architects of the crime, together with the puppet authorities and their co-conspirators, to justice so that they may face stern punishment in the world's eyes.

The statement stressed that the sinister attempt of the empire of devils to turn the Korean peninsula into a barren land of germ warfare, not just exposing it to nuclear radioactivity, can never come true.

United Nations A/69/925

General Assembly

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Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 50
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Letter dated 4 June 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I write to you with reference to the high-level conference on the theme "UNRWA at 65: sustaining human development and protecting rights of Palestine refugees", which was convened under your auspices on 2 June 2015 on the occasion of 65 years of operation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The conference, including the high-level plenary meeting and panel sessions, provided an important opportunity to reflect upon the continuing plight of the Palestine refugees over the 67 years since *Al-Nakba* of 1948, including the opportunity to listen to testimonies by Palestine refugees from the region, who presented compelling testimonies about the realities of their plight and the hardships they are enduring. Moreover, it was a timely opportunity to acknowledge the remarkable work done by UNRWA in providing humanitarian assistance and protection, as well as opportunities for human development to the Palestine refugees for 65 years, since its establishment in 1950, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 302 (IV); to acknowledge also the vital support of the host countries — Jordan, Lebanon and Syria — for the Agency and the Palestine refugees over the decades, and of the international donor community, whose voluntary contributions have made the UNRWA humanitarian mission possible; to assess the many serious challenges facing the Palestine refugees and UNRWA at this time; and to renew the support and commitment of the international community for UNRWA and for a just solution to the plight of the Palestine refugees in accordance with international law and the relevant United Nations resolutions, the foremost of which is General Assembly resolution 194 (III), which is essential for the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace. In that regard, I have the honour to attach herewith the Chair's summary, which was read out at the conference by the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Pierre Krähenbühl (see annex).

In closing, I reaffirm our gratitude, on behalf of the Palestinian people and their leadership, for the long-standing, principled support — political, financial and

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moral — of the international community for the Palestine refugees and for the mandate of UNRWA, recognizing the special role played in particular by the members and observers of the Advisory Commission of UNRWA. I underscore the need for continued support, and indeed the urgency of strengthening support at this time, to alleviate the grave and immense hardships being endured by the Palestine refugees, particularly as a result of the conflicts and instability wracking the region, pending the achievement of a just and lasting solution and the fulfilment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 50.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

Annex to the letter dated 4 June 2015 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

UNRWA at 65: sustaining human development and protecting rights of Palestine refugees

2 June 2015, New York

Member States and observers of the United Nations met today in New York, at the invitation of the Secretary-General, to commemorate the sixty-fifth anniversary of the commencement of operations by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). Participants recalled that Palestine refugees represent the world's largest and most protracted refugee situation. Participants welcomed the highly significant and enduring contribution that UNRWA has made to the human development and protection of successive generations of Palestine refugees registered with the Agency, which currently serves 5.2 million people. Participants underlined the significant contributions to the collective effort made by hosts, who shoulder significant economic, financial and other responsibilities, by donors, by partners and by Palestine refugees themselves. Participants recognized in particular the commitment of UNRWA staff members, who have worked tirelessly on behalf of Palestine refugees, and paid special tribute to those who have lost their lives serving the Agency.

Looking forward, participants expressed great concern about the growing disparity between the increasing needs of Palestine refugee and the resources available to the Agency, whose structural underfunding, reflected in its recurring and escalating core budget deficits, remains unresolved. Participants noted also that the emergency appeals of UNRWA are underfunded at a time when the Agency is increasingly being called upon to provide extensive emergency assistance to the Palestine refugee community, notably in Syria, where virtually the entire Palestine refugee community, including those in and around Yarmouk, now need assistance; in Gaza, where UNRWA has a significant role to play in repairing the huge damage caused by the 2014 conflict and in mitigating the impact of the ongoing blockade; and in the West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan, where the Agency also provides assistance to Palestine refugees. Those challenges are compounded by the sharply deteriorating socioeconomic conditions in the region affecting all fields of operation. Participants expressed concern at the growing prevalence, among large parts of the Palestine refugee community, of poverty and vulnerability, the lack of enjoyment of basic human rights and the increasing risk of marginalization.

Participants underlined that those challenges must be met so that all Palestine refugees will have access to high quality education and be given the opportunity to lead healthy, self-reliant and dignified lives as envisaged in the UNRWA medium-term strategy for the period 2016-2021. Participants welcomed the focus at the conference on promoting the protection of vulnerable Palestine refugee groups, including women, children, young people and persons with disabilities, as well as those in situations of conflict, and emphasized that the protection of Palestine refugees through the delivery of the Agency's services and the engagement of relevant parties, must continue to be at the core of the work of UNRWA. In line with those objectives, participants underlined the need for donors to fulfil pledges, with

the goal of providing predictable, adequate and sustainable support to the Agency, and invited new and potential donors to do the same. At the same time, participants called upon UNRWA to carry out its mandate efficiently, focusing on the delivery of its core services, and to build and strengthen mutually reinforcing partnerships with relevant actors in both the private and public sectors.

Participants underscored the vital role of UNRWA in contributing to regional stability, until a just, lasting and agreed solution of the Palestine refugee question is reached, in accordance with United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolutions 194 (III) and 302 (IV). Participants expressed their commitment to continue addressing the needs of Palestine refugees, until such a solution is found.